FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-132
Tuesday
11 July 1995

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-132 CONTENTS *11 July 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

- U.S. 'Senior' Role in Redeployment Talks Noted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
- 'Arafat Receives U.S. Senate Delegation *[Jericho VOP]* 1
- 'Arafat Adviser: Jewish Americans 'Dictate' Peace *[Jericho VOP]* 1
- Syrian Leader's Remarks on 'Arafat Rebuked *[Jericho VOP]* 1
- Fatah's Zaki on Damascus Visit, Territories *[AL-BILAD 12 Jul]* 2
- 'Arafat Receives World Bank President in Gaza *[Jericho VOP]* 2
  - Bank Grants $20 Million to Authority *[Jericho VOP]* 3
- 'Arafat Confers With Australian Foreign Minister *[Jericho VOP]* 3
  - Confirms Australia Part of International Force *[Jericho VOP]* 3
- Austrian Official Visits, Discusses Cooperation *[Vienna Radio]* 3
- Qaddumi: Palestinian Negotiator Lost Legitimacy *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
- PA Official: Interim Agreement 'Paves Way' for Future *[THE JERUSALEM POST 7 Jul]* 5
- Evaluation of Peres-'Arafat Accord Said 'Premature' *[AL-QUDS 6 Jul]* 5
- Paper Questions Israeli Commitment to Agreements *[AL-QUDS 8 Jul]* 6
- Redeployment Said To Aim at Saving Settlement *[AL-TALI'AH 6 Jul]* 6
- Hebron Mayor Urges Including Town in Redeployment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
- Al-Za'nun: PNC Not To Transfer to Territories *[AL-RA'Y 8 Jul]* 7
- Hamas Criticizes Authority's 'False Promises' *[London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH Jul]* 8

Arab-Israeli Talks

- Transfer of Power Talks Resume in Cairo *[MENA]* 10
  - PA Official Previews Talks *[MENA]* 10
- Israelis, Palestinians at Odds on Water Distribution *[HA'ARETZ 7 Jul]* 10
- No Agreement at Cairo Talks on Displaced People *[Jericho VOP]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

- Human Rights Leader Comments on Ban of Seminar *[Paris International]* 12
- Zeroual Receives Iraqi President's Envoy *[Algiers TV]* 12
- Joint Algerian-Libyan Executive Committee Meets *[Algiers Radio]* 12
  - Prime Minister Meets Libyan Official *[JANA]* 13
- Foreign Minister To Make Working Visit to Russia *[Algiers Radio]* 13
- Dutch Minister, Envoy Discuss Agriculture *[Algiers Radio]* 13
- New Director for Interior Ministry Installed *[Algiers Radio]* 13
- Opposition Newsletter on Junta, Strike, Mubarak *[Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 6 Jun]* .. 14

Egypt

- Mubarak Reportedly Considering Vice President *[AL-SAFIR 6 Jul]* 16
- Plans for Mubarak Assassination Bid Revealed *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 7 Jul]* 16

Reportage on Continuing Tensions With Sudan 17
 Arab-African Body Lodges Complaint *[Cairo Radio]* 17
 Commentary Warns Sudanese Regime *[Cairo Radio]* 18
 AL-AHRAM Continues Criticism *[MENA]* 18
 Attacks on 'Terrorists' Abroad Demanded *[AL-MUSAWWAR 7 Jul]* 19
 Musa on Current Tensions With Sudan *[MENA]* 20
 More Material for 'Terrorism' Seized *[MENA]* 20
Brotherhood Official Denies Links to Islamic Group *[AL-'AHD 23 Jun]* 21
Musa, League Chief Discuss Sudan, Arab Action Document *[MENA]* 22
Israel's Tzur Meets Musa, Comments on Peace Talks *[MENA]* 22
Iran Tells Egypt: U.S. Supports Radicals *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 15 May]* 23
Al-Baz Returns From Talks in Greece *[MENA]* 24
 Leaves for 3-Day London Visit *[MENA]* 24
PLO Executive Member Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives *[MENA]* 24
Syrian Information Minister Meets Mubarak, Comments *[Cairo Radio]* 24
 Salman Leaves Cairo *[MENA]* 25
Australian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks *[MENA]* 25
Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives, Hands Mubarak Message *[MENA]* 25
Qatar Agrees To Transport Gas Through Suez Canal *[MENA]* 25
New Radio To Begin Transmission in Hala'ib 14 Jul *[Cairo Radio]* 25

Morocco

King Hassan Gives Speech on Youth Day *[Rabat TV]* 26
Minister Issues Statement on By-Election Nominees *[Rabat Radio]* 28
*Daily Discusses Economic Relations With EC *[AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI 24 May]* 28

Sudan

Reportage Continues on Tensions With Egypt 31
 Envoy Seeks Syrian Mediation *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 31
 Egyptian Report Said 'Contrived' *[Omdurman Radio]* 31
 Islamic Figure on Egyptian 'Claims' *[Tehran Radio]* 31
 Foreign Minister on Visa Restrictions *[London MBC TV]* 32
 More Egyptians Reportedly Arrested *[MENA]* 32
Al-Turabi on 'Resurgence of Islamic Energy' *[London FINANCIAL TIMES 11 Jul]* 33
Al-Bashir Praises Government's Achievements *[Omdurman Radio]* 33
Human Rights Committee Briefs al-Bashir *[Omdurman Radio]* 34
Vice President Supports 'Peace From Within' Strategy *[Omdurman Radio]* 34
Faction Condemns Conference Held in Asmara *[Omdurman Radio]* 35
Khartoum State Camps Ready for Military Training *[SUNA]* 35
Agreement Between Opposition Leaders Signed *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 19 May]* 35
Rebel Group Denies Signing Peace Accord With Khartoum *[AFP]* 37
Minister Talks With U.S. IGADD Delegate *[Omdurman Radio]* 38
Iraq's Jasim Concludes Visit, Leaves for Sanaa *[INA]* 38

Tunisia

Ben Ali, French President Discuss Relations *[Tunis Radio]* 38
Ben Ali, South African Vice President Meet *[Tunis Radio]* 39
 De Klerk Concludes Visit *[Tunis Radio]* 39

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Qatar

Amir on Power Change; Arab, Israeli, U.S. Ties *[AL-SAFIR 7 Jul]* 40
Foreign Minister on 'Internal' Change, Policy *[AL-SAFIR 6 Jul]* 41
Amir Reshuffles Cabinet, Makes Appointments 43
  Appoints Himself Prime Minister *[Doha Radio]* 43
  Appoints Director of Amir's Office *[Doha Radio]* 43
  Appoints New Intelligence Director *[Doha Radio]* 44
  Issues Line of Succession Decree *[Doha Radio]* 44

IRAQ

Government 'Extremely' Regrets Ciller's Statements *[INA]* 45
Iran Warned Against Repeating 'Aggression' *[INA]* 45
Iranian Resistance Official on Attack by 'Agents' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 45
Iran Radio on MKO Shooting, Rocket Attack *[Tehran International]* 46
Commentary on Saddam's Threats Against Israel *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jun]* 46
Article: 'Udayy Leads Saddam's Commandos *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 16 Jun]* 47
Saddam's Envoy Returns After Visits to Sudan, Yemen *[INA]* 50
Opposition Leader Calls For Overthrow of Regime *[KUNA]* 50

ISRAEL

Peres Rejects Australian Demand on Jerusalem *[HA'ARETZ 11 Jul]* 52
Rabin To Deliver Message to Syria on Shelling *[Jerusalem Radio]* 52
Jerusalem Mayor: PA Leased Allenby Camp Site *[HA'ARETZ 11 Jul]* 53
Netanyahu Denies Flooding Congressmen With Faxes *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Jul]* 54
Restrictions Ease on Agriculture Trade With U.S. *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Jul]* 54
Peres Apologizes for Killing of Lebanese Citizens *[Jerusalem Radio]* 54
Northern Command Upset by Rabin's Remarks *[MA'ARIV 10 Jul]* 55
Settlers Considering 'Massive' Civil Disobedience *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55
Rabin's Office on Guaranteeing Settlers' Security *[Jerusalem Radio]* 56
Peres Comments on Settlers' Threats, Syrian Track *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 56
Ben-Eli'ezer Cautions on Settlers Taking Up Arms *[HA'ARETZ 11 Jul]* 57
Settlements Launch Campaign To Attract Residents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Jul]* 57
Water, Other Disagreements With Palestinians Noted *[Jerusalem TV]* 57
Agriculture Minister Opposes Water Redistribution *[Jerusalem Radio]* 58
Cabinet Briefed on 'Arafat's 'Positive Approach' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 59
Ben-Eli'ezer: Agreement 'End of Era of Occupation' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 59
Interim Agreement Said Leading to Binational State *[HA'ARETZ 6 Jul]* 59
Labor To Assist Levi in Getting Prime Minister Bid *[HA'ARETZ 7 Jul]* 60

JORDAN

Al-Kabariti To Visit Riyadh; First Trip Since 1990 *[AFP]* 62
Sudanese Minister Brings Message to King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* 62
Trade Cooperation Protocol Signed With Egypt *[Amman Radio]* 62
CERM Grant Agreement Signed With U.S. *[Amman TV]* 62
Islamists Accuse Government of Anti-IAF Practice *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Jul]* 62

LEBANON

UNIFIL Spokesman: Israel Using Banned Weapons *[Beirut Radio]* 64
Envoy Requests Extension of UNIFIL Mandate *[Beirut Radio]* 64
Hizballah Leader Comments on 'Five Key Issues' *[Munich FOCUS 10 Jul]* 64

SYRIA

Al-Asad, Foreign Minister Receive Dennis Ross *[Damascus Radio]* 65
    Newspapers View Ross' Mission *[Damascus Radio]* 65
    Radio Links Visit, Israeli 'Escalation' *[Damascus Radio]* 66
    London Paper on U.S. Role *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Jul]* 66
Khaddam Urges Israel To 'Contribute Its Share' *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 10 Jul]* 67
Sudanese State Minister Leaves Damascus 10 Jul *[SANA]* 68

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Speaks on Current Problems at Conference *[Kabul Radio]* 70
Rabbani Praises Message From Iranian President *[IRNA]* 71
Saudi Arabia Proposes 'Four-Point' Peace Plan *[Kabul Radio]* 71
    Rabbani Said Not Satisfied With Plan *[IRNA]* 71
Rabbani Denounces Foreign Countries' Interference *[Paris LE MONDE 8 Jul]* 72
Rabbani Chairs Session Addressing Situation *[Kabul Radio]* 72
Radio Reports on Dostam Militia Fighting *[Kabul Radio]* 73

India

Escaped U.S. Tourist Reports on Other Hostages *[Delhi Radio]* 73
Daily Hails 'Significant' U.S. Change on Kashmir *[HINDUSTAN 7 Jul]* 73
Daily Accuses U.S. of 'Taking Sides' in Kashmir *[THE PIONEER 1 Jul]* 74
Official, Press View Pakistan Missile Acquisition 74
    Spokesman Says 'Not Surprised' *[ISI]* 74
    Daily Views U.S. Reaction *[JANSATTA 5 Jul]* 74
    Editorial Assails U.S. 'Indifference' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 8 Jul]* 75
Iraq Seeks Help To Get UN Sanctions Lifted *[Delhi Radio]* 76

Iran

Rafsanjani Views U.S. Relations, Nuclear Weapons *[Tehran International]* 76
Rafsanjani Addresses Agreements With Turkmenistan *[Tehran TV]* 76
President Receives New Italian Ambassador *[IRNA]* 77
Velayati Calls For OIC Efforts in Bosnia *[Tehran Radio]* 77
Vice President Habibi To Visit Bulgaria 77
    Bulgarian Comments on Visit *[IRNA]* 77
    Habibi Comments on Departure *[Tehran Radio]* 78
    Habibi Leaves With Delegation *[IRNA]* 78
'Outlawed Grouplet' Reportedly Attacked Inside Iraq 78
    Radio Reports on Attack *[Tehran International]* 78
    Opposition Leader Cables UN on Attack *[Voice of Mojahed]* 78
    Government 'Source' Denies Involvement *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 79
Official Views Gulf Talks, Denies Attack on Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 79
'Victory-6' Maneuvers Carried Out in Persian Gulf 79
    TV Details 'Tactical Phase' *[Tehran TV]* 79
    'Tactical Stage' Said 'Successful' *[IRNA]* 80
    IRNA Reports on Exercise 80
Reasons for Increase in Price of Legumes Viewed *[RESALAT 15 May]* 80
Production of Chickens, Eggs, Dairy Increases *[RESALAT 16 May]* 81
Long Lines Continue for Milk Purchases *[RESALAT 9 May]* 81
Subsidized Milk Distribution in Tehran Reported *[RESALAT 16 May]* 82
Import of Red Meat Decreases by 60% *[RESALAT 21 May]* 82

Pakistan

Editorial Condemns Bhutto's Stance on MQM *[AMN 29 May]* 82
Daily Interviews MQM Chief on Karachi Violence *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 10 Jul]* 83
Government To Hold Talks With MQM in Islamabad 84
  TV Details Upcoming Talks *[Islamabad TV]* 84
  Official Expresses 'Hope' for Success *[Islamabad Radio]* 85
  MQM Official Views Possible Failure *[THE NEWS 11 Jul]* 85
MQM Declares Strike After Member Dies in Custody *[THE NEWS 8 Jul]* 86
  Karachi Observes Strike; 9 Killed *[Islamabad Radio]* 86
  MQM Curtails Strike for Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 87

Sri Lanka

Minister: Government 'To Wipe Out' LTTE *[Colombo International]* 87
Parliament Extends Emergency in North, East *[Colombo International]* 87
Rebels Issue Bomb Threat if Probe Not Ordered *[AFP]* 87
  Bomb Explodes in Captial; No Casualties *[AFP]* 88
President Launches Movement To Support Soldiers *[Colombo International]* 88
Government Forces Begin Offensive Against LTTE 89
  AFP Details Operation 'Leap Forward' 89
  Rebels Reportedly Seek Assistance *[AFP]* 89
  Media Reports on Continued Operation *[Colombo International]* 90

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. 'Senior' Role in Redeployment Talks Noted

TA1107102395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Palestinian source has said that the United States has a senior role to play in the talks between Israel and the Palestinians on the West Bank redeployment and Americans representatives have so far participated in four meetings of the Israeli and Palestinian teams on that issue.

The source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that he does not reject U.S. involvement in the planned meetings in Italy.

'Arafat Receives U.S. Senate Delegation

JN0907200195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee delegation today, led by (Daniella Pelleca), accompanied by U.S. Consul General Edward Abington.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed the peace process, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

'Arafat Adviser: Jewish Americans 'Dictate' Peace

JN0707135695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, has asserted that any agreement that fails to grant the Palestinians their most basic rights cannot provide security to the Israelis.

In a speech delivered before leaders of the Jewish American Anti-Defamation Movement, Dr. al-Tibi added that the attempt by one side to enforce its dictates on the other in the negotiations will only produce fragile and frail agreements. Dr. al-Tibi expected the historical reconciliation between the Palestinians and Israelis to take shape 10 years after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Syrian Leader's Remarks on 'Arafat Rebuked

JN1107080295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] We will talk about Syria. By Syria, we do not mean Greater Syria or Greater Bilad al-Sham. We are referring to Syria, whose capital is Damascus and which is north of Palestine.

In our Palestinian memory and in the Arab memory, Syria is the bulwark of Arabism and the shelter of the Palestinian revolution. But where does Syria stand today? Before answering, we say that the people of Syria are the brothers of the Palestinian people. We also note that Syria is today negotiating with Israel, just as the Lebanese, Palestinians, and Egyptians did. We add that one day in 1982, the great Syrian poet, Nizar Qabbani, said, in the wake of the epic of Palestinian steadfastness in Beirut, led by Yasir 'Arafat, that the Palestinians are the best of Arabs. Nizar Qabbani's words were in condemnation of the stand of the Syrian regime toward the siege of Beirut, which was that of a bystander watching what was happening to the Palestinians and Lebanese in Lebanon while defending the dignity of the Arab nation.

Two days ago in Germany, Nizar Qabbani repeated his condemnation of the familiar Arab positions on the Palestine question. Two days ago, the German newspaper DER SPIEGEL published vile and vindictive statements by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, in which he insulted President Yasir 'Arafat. Khaddam also criticized the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Khaddam knows very well that his government has long been holding negotiations with Israel. Mr. Khaddam, however, always insists on doing injustice to the Palestinian people and their leadership and accusing them of treason. Thus, Khaddam has appointed himself a spokesman for the Palestinian people.

We are not here concerned with replying to Khaddam's vile, reckless, and indecorous statements. The fraternal, unyielding people of Syria — the people of Yusuf al-'Azm and Ibrahim Hananu — know Khaddam and know that this low level of officials does not befit Syria, its leadership, and its national and regional role in serving the objectives of the fraternal Syrian people and Arab nation. The Syrian people are well aware that the Palestinian people and all other peoples hold President 'Arafat in high esteem, since he is the national symbol of Palestine — land, people, and cause. Yasir 'Arafat has won the Nobel Prize for peace and he is leading his people adroitly to a shore of freedom and peace.

Once again we recall the words of our Arab Syrian poet Nizar Qabbani, when he said: The Palestinians are the best of Arabs. We tell Nizar Qabbani: Most Arabs are good, except for those who are like 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. We will not forget that those people have their hands smeared with the blood of our Palestinian people in Tall al-Za'tar, Nahr al-Barid, and al-Baddawi. They have deceived their people when they created a big clamor and told lies that they will fight the enemies of the nation and that they are seeking strategic parity. They are now publicly negotiating with Israel.

Finally, we say: Our Palestinian people will never forgive those who insult their national symbol, Yasir 'Arafat. As for the Syrian people, they will always occupy a place in our hearts.

Fatah's Zaki on Damascus Visit, Territories

JN1007202295 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
12 Jul 95 p 8

[Interview with 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member, by Mahmud Khalil; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Khalil] You and some Fatah leaders recently visited Damascus. Would you brief us on the results of that visit, during which you met with a large number of Palestinian opposition leaders and Syrian officials?

[Zaki] The meetings with the leaders of Palestinian factions were to exchange views and were not official meetings because differences and division prevail, and there is no rule according to which these differences can be resolved. I think that if such a rule is found, all pending issues can be resolved. [passage omitted]

[Khalil] What about the information which says that your visit to Damascus and your meeting with the leaders of Palestinian factions have been a Fatah bid to circumvent some opposition groups that have begun to be formed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip? Was your visit held within this context?

[Zaki] Never, I have good relations with all factions, and my meetings with the faction leaders aimed to exchange views and discuss a possible rapprochement—rapprochement between the nationalists just as rapprochement takes place between the deviationists [al-munharifin].

[Khalil] It is said that the Syrians feel that they have been deceived by the Palestinian side. Have you felt this, and did you try to heal the atmosphere with them?

[Zaki] The Syrians are hurt, and it seems as if they are saying that we have relieved the Arabs of their duty toward our cause. Nevertheless, they continue to insist that Palestine is the southern part of Syria. [passage omitted]

[Khalil] Do you in the PLO fear that the political groups formed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will present themselves as an alternative to the PLO?

[Zaki] I think that vacuum is rejected by nature. Many Palestinian professional and forces are marginalized, and they have the right to find a political framework for them. I am not afraid that they will undermine the PLO. Bassam al-Shak'ah paid a dear price to preserve the PLO, so the political group he calls for does not threaten the PLO, and the same applies to the group formed by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. I believe these figures are a guarantee for the continuation of Palestinian action and are pressuring instruments to correct the situation, and they are not instruments of a coup or an alternative to the PLO, which will not be terminated. The Fatah Movement in particular will not be terminated because it is based on the blood of martyrs. [passage omitted]

[Khalil] Can we understand from the change of your organizational post as head of the higher committee for support for the intifadah to the official in charge of administration and organization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that the return to the intifadah is not an option for the Palestinian leadership?

[Zaki] No, and the change of my post has come within the framework of not claiming something that does not exist. In the past, there was a great intifadah momentum that was changed by the peace process to olive branches on the Israeli tanks. In light of that development, and out of my eagerness to stay in the same boat, I accepted the leadership's decision and assumed the responsibilities for organization and administration in the homeland, but this does not negate any other militant role.

[Khalil] Then the option of returning to the intifadah still exists?

[Zaki] It is not only me who says this. Faysal al-Husayni, too, thinks that if things remain the same, the Palestinians will launch an intifadah as a reply to the Israeli intransigence.

[Khalil] Final question. In light of the latest developments concerning the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank cities, is it true that Palestinian elections will be held next November?

[Zaki] I stress that the elections will not be held next November as they declare, and if they are held on that date, they will be elections in accordance with the Israeli concept that realizes the Israeli interests which we know well.

'Arafat Receives World Bank President in Gaza

JN0907124795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1100 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received World Bank President James Wolfensohn at the President's Offices in Gaza today. They discussed means to develop the Palestinian economy and the World Bank's contribution to strengthening the peace process.

The international official said the World Bank will continue to offer support and will always endeavor to find sources for economic development in Palestine.

'Arafat and World Bank President James Wolfensohn signed an agreement for a project to rehabilitate educational institutions, including the renovation of schools and health centers in Gaza Strip.

Bank Grants $20 Million to Authority

JN0907193895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat signed an agreement with World Bank President James Wolfensohn today.

In accordance with the agreement, the World bank will grant $20 million to the Palestinian National Authority to execute projects and to improve services in the fields of health and education.

President Yasir 'Arafat said he was pleased with the agreement because it would help the National Authority surmount obstacles.

Wolfensohn said that the World bank will continue to extend aid to the Palestinian people.

'Arafat Confers With Australian Foreign Minister

JN0907202895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans at the presidency in Gaza today. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the peace process particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

President 'Arafat described his talks with the Australian minister as positive and fruitful.

At a joint news conference he held with the guest official following the meeting, the president said the most important thing is to implement what has been agreed upon accurately, including the redeployment in all the populated areas pursuant to the Declaration of Principles, preparation for the coming Palestinian legislative elections, and the transfer of powers to the National Authority in the West Bank.

The president added: We do not forget that Australia has agreed to participate in the international presence in the West Bank, which will take place soon.

President 'Arafat said that he briefed the minister on what has been achieved at the negotiations, especially since only two weeks remain before the 25 July date.

The Australian foreign minister said that the two sides discussed several issues, including the economic situation and development in the National Authority areas. He stressed that his country hopes that the Palestinians and the Israelis will succeed in achieving peace.

He added that during the meeting with Rabin today, he will tell him that the world wants a solution to the current situation.

Attending the meeting were ministers Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, and Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun.

Confirms Australia Part of International Force

JN1107063595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Australia has agreed to participate in the temporary international force which will be deployed in the West Bank during the interim period. President 'Arafat confirmed this following his meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans in Gaza. President 'Arafat added that the international presence can help both the Palestinians and Israelis, during the interim period, overcome the difficulties which might face them.

The Australian foreign minister called for presenting an official request for this participation, adding that he will ask Israeli officials to show flexibility during the Palestinian-Israeli talks to reach an agreement on 25 July.

Austrian Official Visits, Discusses Cooperation

AU1007081395 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 0500 GMT 10 Jul

[Report by Ben Segenreich]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, an Austrian Government member paid the first official visit to Gaza, the Palestinian autonomy region. Transport and Nationalized Industries Minister Viktor Klima met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza for talks on Austrian development aid and Austrian-Palestinian economic contacts. It was a late appointment that Yasir 'Arafat conceded the Austrian transport minister in the barely illuminated city. Yet, then the very busy Palestinian leader dedicated more than one hour to his Austrian guest.

We in Austria have experience in many spheres, Klima said several times. Send your experts to our country so they can learn from us — free of charge. And 'Arafat is grateful:

[Begin 'Arafat recording, in English] We have to thank the Austrian people, the Austrian Government, the Austrian leadership for what they are offering to our people in all fields and at all levels. And we cannot forget it. And we hope that this coordination of cooperation will increase in the future. We are in need of your help. [end recording]

Klima wanted to get an idea of what the Palestinians need most. The list of priorities is headed by apartments. Next year 80 million schillings are to go to the Palestinian housing construction fund — as part of the total of 300 million schillings the Austrian Government has promised in development aid. The most important north-south connection in the Gaza Strip, road number four, is too small and in a desolate state. It needs to be turned into a superhighway. The Palestinians would also like to build a sea port and an airport as quickly as possible. They suffer from being so dependent on Israel for travel connections and trade.

Doubts were raised among the Austrian delegation as to whether the Palestinians would be ready to cope with the task of running an international airport in the near future. Nevertheless, they were invited to gather practical experience at Austrian airports.

Klima pointed out that, as a transit country, Austria can offer a lot of know-how in the area of railroad construction, and that, as a tourist country, it lays great emphasis on environmental protection. That is something the Palestinians should benefit from, Klima said.

On the sidelines of the visit it could be learned that an Austrian firm has very good chances of winning the contract to establish the Palestinian television station and that 20 Palestinians will probably soon be trained in Austria.

Today [10 July], Klima will spend the day in Jerusalem and hold talks with the Israeli ministers for communication, industry, and transport. Company representatives in Klima's delegation are also hoping for contracts in Israel, where the economy is growing rapidly due to immigration and the hope for peace.

Qaddumi: Palestinian Negotiator Lost Legitimacy

JN1107064695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Faridah al-Shubashi; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Shubashi] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi]: The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have stumbled and the deadline for the Israeli Army redeployment has been extended several times. Also, it has been announced that negotiations could resume secretly in Florence. In light of these developments, what is your position and what do you specifically expect with regard to the Palestinian-Israeli track?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have been stumbling since their early beginnings. With extreme regret, Israel has broken all its promises. I say clearly that the Palestinian negotiator has lost his legitimacy, because he is now negotiating outside the framework decided by the Palestine National Council [PNC]. Therefore, we say very clearly that these negotiations will prejudice the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It is obvious that the United States and the World Bank become active whenever the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations face a stumbling block that requires a certain concession from the Palestinians, so they promise the Palestinians generous aid. However, these promises soon vanish when the Palestinians accept what is proposed.

[Al-Shubashi] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, in light of the current developments, the slogan being raised now is that there is no alternative to the negotiations. Besides, Israel always says that the Arabs have no other alternative than to negotiate with it. Is there another alternative?

[Qaddumi] The negotiations must be based on the principles stipulated in the U.S. initiative. However, when these principles are violated, then this means that the negotiations mean submission to Israel's conditions. Yes, there is another way and there are other alternatives. The continuation of Palestinian struggle, at the available pace and momentum, no matter how long this will take, could achieve the objectives we seek. Look at the Syrian track. It is proceeding slowly, but our Syrian brothers are taking heed of all the minute details. They leave nothing out. This is the reason why Israel does not want to give the Arabs anything according to the principles on which the settlement is based. Israel wants a price for this. Yitzhaq Rabin wants to impose a settlement according to Israel's conditions. Why should we accept this and resign ourselves to the fact that Israel exists and wants to maintain its security by unfair conditions at the expense of the national rights of the Palestinian people?

[Al-Shubashi] Abu-al-Lutf, can we say that you are a maverick or is there an emerging trend within the Palestinian leadership that shares your views?

[Qaddumi] I can say with certainty that the current that advocates these ideas is overwhelming. At this stage, however, we do not want to appear as being opposed to the political settlement. We, as the PNC said, support the peace process, but based on the principles that were proposed by U.S. President Bush. These principles include implementing Resolution 242, which stipulates Israel's withdrawal and not a self-rule, and Israel's withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, which Israel claims to be its eternal and undivided capital. I am sure that despite the funds that are pouring on the authority — which I believe are still crumbs — the Palestinian people will not accept this settlement which is being imposed on them. I also think that all honest Palestinians know this fact. We are all struggling for a fair settlement and a comprehensive peace on the basis of full withdrawal, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and their right to establishing their state. If these conditions are not met, then the Palestinian people will reject this settlement. The blessed intifadah in the occupied territories is evidence of this. No one can shield the sun with a sieve.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

PA Official: Interim Agreement 'Paves Way' for Future

TA0707105095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Jul 95 pp 1

[Report by Lamia Lahoud]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interim agreement Israel and the Palestinians are due to sign on July 25th is perhaps the most important agreement so far, since it will pave the way for the final status of the territories, Maj.-Gen. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, head of the Palestinian Security Liaison Committee, told the JERUSALEM POST.

Al-Yahya and Maj.-Gen. 'Uzi Dayan are heading the security committee negotiating redeployment in the territories.

According to al-Yahya, the meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority [PA] head Yasir 'Arafat on Tuesday was a serious breakthrough.

"We succeeded in overcoming most obstacles relating to redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], deployment of the Palestinian Police, allocation of security responsibilities and security arrangements in what we call area B", he said.

The negotiators divided the territories into four zones. Area A is comprised of Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm and Qalqilyah, where all civilian and security responsibilities will immediately be transferred to the PA.

Area B includes Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, all the villages and refugee camps, and some of the roads. In most of area B the Palestinians will be in charge of civilian affairs and public order, but the IDF will have the "overriding security responsibility," al-Yahya explained.

Palestinian 'civilian' police, wearing blue uniforms, will be deployed in Ramallah, Bethlehem, and all the villages and refugee camps to enforce law and order. The IDF will be in charge of dealing with all incidents of political violence and security for the settlers, he said. But there will be some joint security arrangements like joint patrols and mobile units, he added.

Al-Yahya said the security arrangements in area B are temporary arrangements. Once bypass roads have been built for the settlers, the Palestinians will take security control of Bethlehem and Ramallah and gradually of the rest of are B.

Areas C and D are all settlements and IDF military installations. They will remain under Israeli control.

Evaluation of Peres-'Arafat Accord Said 'Premature'

TA0607171295 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Jul 95 p 13

[Editorial: "The New Understanding — A Continuation of the Israeli Approach"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the relative optimism expressed by some Palestinian and Israeli sources in the wake of the agreement between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on general principles for implementing the second stage of the Oslo Declaration, it is premature to assess this step and its future repercussions on the peace process. This is because the Palestinian man in the street has learned during the past two years — specifically since the signing of the first interim agreement — that the issuing of pledges and commitments by Israel is one thing, and implementing them is a completely different thing.

The least that can be said about the second agreement of principles is that it reflects the Israeli insistence on placing the so-called Israeli security issue above any other consideration. The other party insisted on keeping security control over most arteries and roads and over many Palestinian villages, and postponed the evacuation of Ramallah and Bethlehem for one entire year. This is on the basis of Israeli pledges, but when the time comes to fulfill those pledges, one year will turn into many years.

The Israeli stance on Hebron represents another example of disregarding Palestinian demands in favor of the Israeli interest. The town is to remain under the security control of the Israeli forces for the sake of a few hundred settlers living in a sea of more than 100,000 Arab residents, who are required to suffer in this strange situation until 1999 — the deadline for the end of the self-rule period.

Many reservations can be drawn from the Palestinians' experience with the Israeli side. We shall not refer to the issue of dates and the failure to honor them. This issue is well-known and has been exhausted. What draws one's attention is Israel's insistence on the possibility of backing down from implementing the agreement — if it is signed — in the event of violent acts taking place that harm the so-called Israeli security. This insistence reflects immense lack of confidence in the future of the peace process on one hand and, on the other, places the Palestinian side in a test position. Whereas, the most elementary, logical, and accepted concepts of peace require equality and mutual respect and giving an opportunity for the peace process to evolve and bear fruit without pressure or conditions. This is because those developments by themselves will lead to the achievement of security and stability by ensuring Palestinian legitimate and inalienable rights.

Paper Questions Israeli Commitment to Agreements

TA1007111095 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic in Arabic 8 Jul 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Positions and Statements That Do Not Serve the Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement published yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin once again reiterated Israel's rejection of the principle of establishing a Palestinian state, its refusal to withdraw to the 1967 borders, and its insistence on keeping "united Jerusalem" under its sovereignty. These statements come at a time when some voices in the Israeli cabinet are criticizing "the agreement" reached on "general principles" for implementing the second stage, and when an Israeli minister has called for annexing the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim.

These statements and positions augment another picture epitomized by last week's results of an Israeli public opinion poll affirming that the majority of Israelis do not support the Israeli army's withdrawal from Palestinian towns in the West Bank. They are also supplemented by a widespread campaign launched by the Israeli rightwing in general and the settlers, in particular, to foil the peace process and reinforce the occupation.

In the face of this picture of Israel's official and popular behavior toward the peace process, and at a time when in the next few days efforts are supposed to be exerted to formulate the agreement for implementing the second stage, the question is: Can these Israeli statements and positions — from the Israeli Government to the Israeli street — really express the desire to make peace with the Palestinian people? And do such positions reflect a serious desire to formulate an agreement within days and implement it?

It is clearly obvious that these positions and statements bolster Palestinian doubts about the reality of Israeli intentions. They also enhance the view that Israel wants to gain time and exploit the peace talks to create more facts in the occupied Palestinian territories and impose its positions on the Palestinian side, away from the necessary requirements and components for making a genuine peace that ends the Israeli occupation and allows the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, foremost of all the establishment of their independent Palestinian state.

Hence, if Israel has violated the Declaration of Principles [DOP] — beginning with the continuation of the settlement and expropriation campaigns, to continued imposition of collective punishment on the Palestinians, and ending with procrastination and delay in implementing the accords in a bid to divide solutions and arrangements — its current positions do not cause one to be encouraged and feel that the agreements made a few days ago will have a better fate than the DOP itself.

Thus, if the goal to be achieved today is a real advancement of the peace process, what is required from the Israelis — both on the official and popular levels — is to stop treating the peace process as if it were a legitimate cover for reinforcing the occupation in new-old shapes and forms and admit that making real peace requires new tendencies that differ from the occupation's approach and mentality. This approach must be one that recognizes the Palestinian people's rights and aspires to a genuine partnership in peacemaking. Otherwise, Israeli positions will remain a main cause for the obstruction of peace and the enhancement of the possibilities for retreat.

Redeployment Said To Aim at Saving Settlement

TA0707172895 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 6 Jul 95 p 3

[Commentary by Bashir al-Barghuthi: "The Talk at Erez and the Occupation Realities on the Ground"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is nothing in the announced agreement between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Israeli Government at Erez that causes joy or indicates a change in the Israeli position. In practice, the Israeli position on redeployment was accepted, but it was offered to the Palestinian side in smaller doses and over a longer period.

Thus the redeployment, which according to the Oslo accord was supposed to be implemented before July 1994, has been postponed until July 1997 and will cover the centers of towns, while the main roads between and inside the towns will remain in the hands of the Israeli forces.

As for the joint patrols proposed by the Palestinian side as a compromise between full redeployment in the West Bank, with the exception of the settlements, and the Israeli insistence on keeping security control over all the West Bank, the Israeli side trimmed down those patrols to mobile ones responsible for traffic incidents involving Palestinians and Israelis, not permanent or regular patrols, as is the case in Gaza and Jericho.

As for the villages, they will remain under Israeli military control. The Palestinian side can set up a civil administration in them. Hebron is to be the subject of future negotiations.

If the criterion is progress toward ending the Israeli occupation and achieving Palestinian sovereignty, the announced redeployment plan reinforces the occupation reality. It is a plan for fragmenting the Palestinian territories and consolidating Israeli settlement on them. This fact cannot be changed by the presence of this or that number of policemen in the centers of towns or by participating in the investigation of a traffic incident on main roads.

It is obvious from all this that the Israeli Government is not ready to concede any of its occupation manifestations or accept any of the manifestations of sovereignty on the part of the PA. It is ready to free itself of administrative burdens and hand them over to the PA within the context of its full control over the security aspects, land, and sources of water.

And all this in the name of protecting the security of settlements. Here lies the irony. These settlements were established on Palestinian land under the pretext of safeguarding Israel's security. Now, these settlements are being expanded under the pretext of safeguarding their security. On the basis of this logic, it will not be surprising if new settlements are set up under the pretext of safeguarding the security of existing ones, and so forth.

The Israeli Government acts on the basis of ensuring the continuation of its occupation of the Palestinian territories with the least possible financial and political costs. The PA's agreement to a redeployment plan that will last until 1997 gives the world the impression that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating track is smooth. It also allows the Israeli Government to expand normalization with the Arab world, sign peace treaties with its governments, and exchange diplomatic representations before solving the problems of Jerusalem, the displaced persons, and the Israeli occupation presence on our land. For this purpose, the Israeli Government is separating the issues and postponing their solution as much as possible. The Oslo accord was merely a declaration of principles. It was followed by the first and then the second Cairo agreement, which was considered an operational agreement. After this, the Israeli Government reached agreement with the PA on a new declaration of principles regarding some aspects of the operational agreement. And each time, previous agreements are disavowed and concessions extracted from the Palestinian side.

Neither in the Oslo accord nor in the Cairo agreement was Hebron excluded from redeployment. The main roads and villages were also not excluded. Now they have been.

It behooves those who are negotiating on behalf of the Palestinian side to look at the overall picture and observe that expanding administrative powers means neither sovereignty nor liberation and that the Israeli Government is seeking to exploit the interim period to complete its preparations and impose a final solution on the ground which will present the Palestinian side with a fait accompli in the final stage talks. With their current approach, the Palestinians will not be able to change this.

Hebron Mayor Urges Including Town in Redeployment

TA0907050095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah said that the residents of his town will not participate in the elections unless Hebron is included in the framework of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. Al-Natshah told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinians are prepared to conduct joint patrols to protect the settlers if they are entrusted with the town's security. The Hebron mayor asserted that Yasir 'Arafat had promised to try and get Hebron included in the redeployment agreement.

Al-Za'nun: PNC Not To Transfer to Territories

JN0807112995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Jul 95 p 32

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has said that President 'Arafat asked him to transfer the PNC headquarters from Amman to Gaza. In statements to AL-RA'Y, al-Za'nun said that the Palestinian president made this request during the funeral of the late

Khalid al-Hasan [Fatah Central Committee member] in Morocco earlier this year.

Al-Za'nun, who is also a Fatah Central Committee [FCC] member, said: I rejected this request and I was supported by FCC members Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Abu-Mahir Ghunaym [Muhammad Ghunaym]. He added: I told Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] that the PNC is a pressure card in the hands of the Palestinian National Authority as long as it is outside in Amman. However, he noted, if the PNC was transferred to the territories, then it will be subject to pressure and the Israeli press keep asking us everyday: When will you meet to amend the Charter? Al-Za'nun noted that the Palestinian leadership approved this view, which I and my brothers at FCC have adopted. We have agreed to keep the PNC headquarters in Amman and the PLO Political Department in Tunis until the final stage, which leads to establishing a Palestinian state, is achieved.

Responding to a question on Rabin's linkage between redeployment and canceling the articles of the Palestinian National Charter, al- Za'nun said: I do not see any reason for the PNC to meet based on the Israeli request. However, he added, if I receive a request from the PLO Executive Committee to hold a PNC meeting with a legal quorum of its 12 out of 18 members, then I will call on the PNC to convene in the place and time set by the PLO Executive Committee.

Al-Za'nun denied that President 'Arafat contacted him about amending the Palestinian National Charter two months after electing the self-rule council. He added that there is no talk about this issue and that the dates Rabin is setting for the PNC to meet are not sacred. The PNC speaker, he noted, is the one who decides to convene a PNC meeting if the session was ordinary, or it might convene based on a decision from the PLO Executive Committee.

Al-Za'nun added that the PLO Legislative and Executive Committees recently reached an understanding that any decision dealing with the PNC should be adopted by at least 12 of the 18 Executive Committee members. He denied that he was personally invited to Washington to take part in signing an agreement on redeployment in the West Bank. He said: I am not used to taking part in ceremonies of this sort. Moreover, members of the PLO Central Council and the PNC did not and will not take part.

Al-Za'nun expressed his satisfaction with the performance of the Palestinian delegation regarding the issue of Israeli Army redeployment in the West Bank. He said: The Israeli side had proposed and insisted on Janin-first and a municipal authority for the Palestinians in it while it remains responsible for security. The Israeli side said that if Janin example succeeds, then it can be applied to Nabulus. In other words, the Israelis wanted to return West Bank cities to the PLO in installments. The Palestinian negotiating delegation, headed by Abu-'Ala' Quray' [Ahmad Quray'], succeeded in applying the Gaza Strip example where all its cities have been handed over. Al-Za'nun added: We hope that all the West Bank cities will be handed over to the PLO after 25 July. He noted that the settlements in the West Bank, which constitute 9 percent of its area, must be dismantled during the start of the negotiations on the final stage scheduled to begin in May 1995.

Hamas Criticizes Authority's 'False Promises'

MM1007153895 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Jul 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Communique No. 124"; date not given; ellipses as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" has called, in its regular communique, on all those who care about the unity of the Palestinian people to play their role in deterring the autonomy Authority from continuing with its repressive practices against the strugglers and its policy of pushing matters to the brink of collision and sedition. The communique says:

Our struggling Palestinian people:

A full year has passed since the implementation of the flimsy Oslo Accord and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. Yet our people are still suffering under the yoke of the treacherous occupation and its repressive practices, the occupation still looms heavy over our Palestinian land, and its aggressions have escalated and increased instead of stopping.

The Zionist authorities seem determined to continue their infringements of our people's rights, our land, and our sanctities. They have been continuing their crimes against our people's sons, most recently in the abominable crime committed by the occupation forces against the martyr hero Hamid Yaghmur..., and they have been continuing their expansionist policy of expropriating Palestinian lands and changing the facts on the ground. They have committed acts of aggression against Islamic and Christian holy places by a tunneling under the al-Aqsa Mosque, thereby endangering it and the Dome of the Rock Mosque. They have also committed a sinful aggression against the Church of Saint Anthony in Jaffa and turned an Islamic cemetery in Tel Aviv into a parking lot.

Expansion, the expropriation of Palestinian lands, and the building of more settlements are an established policy of all Zionist governments, be they Likud or Labor governments. The decision taken by the government of the terrorist Rabin to suspend the decision on the expropriation of lands in Jerusalem is no more than a mere attempt to throw dust in our eyes. Because the expropriation decision has not been rescinded but has only been deferred for an unspecified time. Furthermore, the decision to defer the implementation of this expropriation resolution was adopted to frustrate any attempt to withdraw confidence from the government and was not due to any pressures from the autonomy Authority or to Arab and international denunciation and condemnation.

Instead of declaring the suspension of the negotiations with the Zionist enemy following its adoption of the land expropriation decision, the autonomy Authority hastened to reiterate its decision to continue with the negotiations despite all the oppressive Zionist measures. The matter did not stop there, either. Indeed, the president of the Authority intervened directly in favor of the government of the terrorist Rabin by asking the Arab parties in the Zionist Knesset to withdraw the motion of no confidence in the government!!

Our struggling Palestine people:

Masses of our Arab and Islamic nation:

All the false promises made by the autonomy Authority have collapsed and our people have come to realize that these deceitful promises are a mirage. Furthermore, instead of standing shoulder to shoulder with its people to share their sufferings and agonies, the Authority chose to succumb to the enemy's pressure and to submit to his conditions and dictates, thereby adding more sufferings and agonies to those already endured by our people and more subjugation to our people than they already have. The number of detainees has also increased..., but this time the detainees were in the prisons of a Palestinian Authority which came waving promises of prosperity, freedom, and human rights!!

But where is this freedom, when the Authority has been going on with its large-scale detentions within the ranks of our people and has been passing unjust sentences against the heroic strugglers of our people!?

What freedom is this when the Authority has been intensifying its measures against houses of worship and charities and has been shutting down newspapers for several months on the ground that they oppose the Authority and incite people against it, as it has done with the newspaper AL-WATAN, which was suspended for three months and whose chief editor, Shaykh Sayyid Abu Musamih, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment?

The Authority has exceeded all limits in its repressive measures, and its obsession with curbing and destroying the opposition has occupied a place above all its other preoccupations, as though its battle were not against the occupying enemy but against its unarmed people, who insist on continuing to adhere to their legitimate right to resist occupation — a right which is recognized by all legislations, traditions, and international laws.

In whose interest does the Authority collect the weapons from the strugglers, who never raised their weapons for one day against any other than the occupation targets!? In whose interest does the Authority fabricate all these false accusations against the honorable sons of our people, such as its accusation that they trade in narcotics and cultivate Bangho [as transliterated] bushes, as was stated by its chief of police!? Do our people lack repression, that Palestinian police cadres had to be sent to Zionist police academies to train in combating riots!?

Our battle against the Zionist enemy is long-term and requires us to show patience and steadfastness in the face of the challenges that are targeted against our existence and our resistance.... And while it affirms the need for cohesion among our people in the face of the enemy plots to push our people toward sedition and in the face of the enemy's expansionist, colonialist designs, your movement, the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas," calls for the following:

First, in the external field:

1. The Hamas Movement condemns the biased American stand and its use of the veto to prevent the adoption of a resolution asking the Zionist entity to retract its decision to expropriate lands in Jerusalem. The Movement also denounces the U.S. Congress' plans to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

2. The Hamas Movement salutes the heroic operations waged by the Islamic Resistance in southern Lebanon against Zionist targets.

3. The Hamas Movement regrets the decision taken by the Jordanian Government against Dr Musa Abu Marzuq, chairman of its Political Bureau, and Brother 'Imad al-'Alami, member of the Political Bureau, and affirms its determination to continue with the option of struggle until the occupation is ended.

4. The Movement denounces the international attitude of collusion with the criminal Serbs against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and calls on the international community to take the necessary deterrent measures against the Serbian aggressors.

5. The Hamas Movement calls on all those who care about the unity of our Palestinian people and the sparing

of their blood to exercise their role in deterring the autonomy Authority from persisting in its repressive practices against our people and from targeting the strugglers and trying to push matters toward collision and sedition....

Second, in the internal field.

1. The Hamas Movement offers as a sacrifice to God its hero Hamid Yaghmur, who fell a martyr after a heroic battle in Hebron which lasted for more than four hours and in which hundreds of Zionist enemy soldiers took part.

2. The Hamas Movement denounces the autonomy Authority's persistence in its repressive practices and calls on it to release all the detainees, to rescind the false sentences passed against them by the so-called state security court, and to cease all the measures it has been taking against the mosques and the Islamic institutions and papers.

3. The Hamas Movement denounces the Zionists' expansionist and colonialist plans and calls on the Palestinian people to stand fast in the face of the Zionist plot.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Transfer of Power Talks Resume in Cairo

NC1107133495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1245 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—The second round of Palestinian-Israeli empowerment talks resumed today cochaired by Jamil al—Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs in the Palestinian Authority, and General Oren Shahor.

The talks will focus on the transfer of powers in the field of water, electricity, and communications through three main committees and will continue until Friday [14 July].

Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent delegate to the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council, has accused Israel of intransigence and failure to comply with the provisions of the Declaration of Principles. He referred to a sense of frustration in the Palestinian arena because of the Israeli position and the failure to reach an agreement on the issues of the elections and empowerment.

Palestinian sources have said that a special security committee is holding a meeting in the Italian capital, Rome, cochaired by Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', minister of economy in the Palestinian Authority, and Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry director general.

According to the sources, another committee is negotiating the release of the Palestinian prisoners. It is chaired by Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation.

PA Official Previews Talks

NC1107061995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0545 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs in the Palestinian Authority [PA], arrived here early today to lead his country's delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transfer of powers.

In an arrival statement al-Tarifi said that during the talks with the Israeli side, led by General Shahor, the two sides will discuss the transfer of eight powers—local government, agriculture, trade, industry, labor and statistics, post, gas, and insurance.

He added that talks between the Palestinians and Israelis on the redeployment as well as on the powers already transferred to the PA will begin on Wednesday [12 July] in Italy. He pointed out that the Cairo talks will show how serious and committed the Israeli side is, particularly following President Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last week.

He noted that the Palestinian side would have preferred to have the talks on redeployment in Cairo rather than Italy, in view of Egypt's positions in support of the PA's rights.

Israelis, Palestinians at Odds on Water Distribution

TA0707132395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
7 Jul 95 p A2

[Report by 'Amiram Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the 5 million citizens of Israel consume approximately 2 billion cubic meters of water annually, amounting to some 400 cubic meters per person (including agricultural uses), the 2.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have at their disposal some 250 million cubic meters annually or some 100 cubic meters per person annually. One Israeli consumes an average 100 cubic meters a year for domestic purposes as compared with 40 cubic meters for one Palestinian.

Every year the West Bank's ground water reserves (the mountain aquifer) rise by some 600 million cubic meters. Israel permits the Palestinians to pump only 110 million cubic meters of this quantity (while the West Bank settlers use another 30 million cubic meters). Israel exploits the rest for its own purposes by means of hundreds of drills in the coastal plain, the inland areas, the Harod Valley, and the Bet She'an Valley.

Most of this water flows westward and converges into the "Yarqon-Taninim" aquifer, which provides approximately 320 million cubic meters of high-quality water to about 2 million Israelis in the Dan region and hundreds of thousands more in the Sharon and inland areas. Some of the water is carried to Jerusalem, while approximately 110 million cubic meters from the mountain aquifer is pumped by Israel in the Harod and Bet She'an valleys.

Israel claims that this status quo must be preserved and that the discussion of the water issue should focus on issues such as management, conservation, purification, and increasing the water resources. Since 1967, Israel has forbidden the Palestinians from drilling new wells.

During two years of lengthy discussions in the framework of the joint Israeli-Palestinian water committee, the Israelis have firmly refused to discuss the Palestinians' water rights or what the Palestinians call "the redistribution of the water resources."

The Palestinian representatives in the committee claim that any water agreement should reflect the redistribution of rights and demand that Israel hand over to them some 450 million cubic meters water annually. This means a new allocation of the water resources in which the Palestinians receive a relative amount based on the level of rainfall in the West Bank.

Israel rejects this demand out of hand and claims there is no precedent for such distribution. It claims, for example, that it is inconceivable for Egypt to concede water rights to Sudan and Ethiopia just because the Nile sources are located in these countries. Israel claims that all the additional water needed in the future for the population west of the Jordan River must come from the development of new water resources.

In the water talks held in the framework of the joint committee, Israel has offered the Palestinians comprehensive aid for implementing several solutions to the water problem, but the Palestinians are insisting on a redefinition of the water rights. As a result, the water talks are currently in a stalemate.

Yesterday some 20 Israeli water and environment experts convened and warned about what they called "the dangers inherent in a hasty turnover of water powers to the Palestinians." They claim that intensive water pumping in the Qalqilyah and Tulkarm area will significantly reduce the quantity of water at the disposal of the Dan region.

No Agreement at Cairo Talks on Displaced People

JN0607150595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Jul 95

[From the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] The displaced people's committee concluded its meeting in Cairo without even reaching agreement on who is a displaced person or how many there are, let alone the special arrangements for their return. Yusuf al-Mahdmud has more:

[Al-Mahmud] The quadrilateral displaced people's committee concluded its meetings in Cairo yesterday without reaching agreement on a definition of the displaced Palestinians who were evicted from their homes during the June 1967 war. The head of the Egyptian delegation, Badr Hammam, declined to make any comment but said that the talks covered the agenda which was agreed upon during the first meeting of the experts held in Beersheba on 7 June. Apart from the terminologies, differences are rife between the Arabs and Israel on the number of displaced people and the timetable for their return.

UN figures indicate that 350,000 Palestinians left the West Bank and Gaza during the occupation. Israel says the number does not exceed 200,000. The PLO says that the displaced persons and their dependents reach 1.5 million.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa recently said that his country submitted to the Palestinian National Authority a list of 100,000 Palestinians living in Egypt. Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti estimated the number of displaced people in Jordan at 700,000 and demanded that 1,300 Palestinians evicted to Jordan since 1967 be repatriated. Al-Kabariti also demanded the return to their homes of between 55,000 and 90,000 Palestinians who arrived in Jordan with expired travel documents and could not return.

The population of the West Bank and Gaza is now estimated at 2 million. The displaced persons are those who were evicted from the West Bank and Gaza in 1967 when they were under the Jordanian and Egyptian administrations. Therefore, the term refugees does not apply to the displaced people because officially they continued to belong to the same government. A refugee is one who leaves from one country to another.

The talks do not include the refugees who were created by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, that is those who fled or were evicted from Palestine. Their fate will be discussed during the last phase of negotiations on the occupied territories scheduled in May 1996 at the latest.

Algeria

Human Rights Leader Comments on Ban of Seminar

LD1007153195 Paris Radio France Internationale in French 1230 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] No official explanation was given on banning the opposition seminar on human rights. Listen to the reaction of Maitre Ali Yahia Abdennour, president of the Algerian League of Human Rights, who was expected to take part in this seminar. He was interviewed by Adala Benraad:

[Begin recording] [Ali Yahia] It was the prefect of Algiers who banned this meeting without explanation or reason. I think up until now, the regime in Algeria has always asked for evidence of human rights abuses to be shown. We wanted to organize an open day seminar to which we invited many people who experienced abuses, those who lost their children, who had been tortured, and who disappeared. [sentence as received]

We are in possession of a whole range of evidence that we must show to the people, demonstrating that human rights are not respected.

[Benraad] Some Algerian newspapers are against your initiative and they criticized your organization for being silent about the exactions committed by Islamic groups.

[Ali Yahia] We have condemned all human rights abuses as well as those who commit them or back them, particularly those committed by the state, which is expected to respect its own laws and international conventions it signed. [end recording]

Zeroual Receives Iraqi President's Envoy

LD0807161295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Head of State Liamine Zeroual received Shabib al-Maliki, Iraqi justice minister and private envoy of President Saddam Husayn, at the Presidency this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Salah Dembri. Following this meeting, President Saddam Husayn's envoy made the following statement:

[Begin al-Maliki recording] We have come to Algeria to convey the Iraqi people's greetings to the fraternal people of Algeria, and to convey the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Liamine Zeroual, and his wishes in more progress and prosperity for the brotherly country of Algeria under the leadership of President Liamine Zeroual.

We have briefed President Liamine Zeroual on the recent developments of the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council on the lifting of the siege. We have stressed to his excellency that Iraq has fulfilled the commitments imposed on it by the Security Councils's resolutions. Therefore, the Security Council should fulfill its commitments. The fulfillment of the Security Council's commitments will be within the framework of Paragraph No. 22 of the Security Council's Resolution No. 687, which allows for the scope of importing and exporting, particularly the exporting of the Iraqi petroleum products on which the embargo is imposed now.

We have also discussed the fraternal bilateral relations between Iraq and Algeria, and the means to consolidate them in the service of the goals of the two fraternal peoples and the glorious Arab nation.

We have also discussed Arab solidarity, and its importance at this stage. His excellency President Liamine Zeroual was kind enough to give a valuable pan-Arab speech in which he stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral relations, and the importance of Arab solidarity for achieving the unity of the Arab nation, and defending its interests. Thank you. [end recording]

Joint Algerian-Libyan Executive Committee Meets

LD1007193495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ninth session of the Joint Algerian-Libyan Executive Committee opened this morning at El-Mithak Residence under the co—chairmanship of Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, the secretary general of the General People's Committee. The opening session was attended by ministers of 16 sectors from both countries.

Here is a report by Rachid Benhamimed who attended the official opening of the proceedings of this committee:

[Benhamimed] This morning at El-Mithak Residence in Algiers, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi co-chaired with 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, the secretary for the General People's Committee, the official opening of the proceedings of the ninth session of the joint Algerian-Libyan Executive Committee. Many ministers, secretaries, and experts from both countries attended the session.

After welcoming the Libyan brothers, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi stressed the importance of this meeting and said: It is a consecration of a commendable custom and an established tradition we wanted for our joint action and for the exchange of views on the most successful means to strengthen the fraternal relations between our two countries. These relations are based on a great historical stock whose fundamentals are our solidarity in our fight for freedom, pride, and progress and searching for the best means to develop these ties so as to serve our common interests and our aspirations for integration.

Mokdad Sifi added that it is a golden opportunity to continue consultations over matters of mutual interest in the sea of rapid and successive regional and international developments. In this respect, Mokdad Sifi said that this session follows the summit between President Liamine Zeroual and his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in Amenas [Algerian desert town] last April. The summit led to valuable directives, important resolutions, and ambitious action programs.

Moreover, Mokdad Sifi commended the efforts made and the prompt meetings between Algerian ministers and Libyan secretaries to implement the joint programs, resolutions, and recommendations decided upon by both parties. He stressed the necessity to give this action the greatest support, especially regarding the expansion of cooperation in the area of human resources and the development of trade between both countries.

Al-Qa'ud praised the depth and strength of fraternal ties between the two fraternal peoples, and Algeria's constant stances toward its sister Libya, as well as the level joint action has reached.

Following the official opening the Algerian and Libyan sides agreed to set the agenda. This was followed by private talks between Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and his Libyan counterpart 'Abd- al-Majid al-Qa'ud. These talks were about the concerns [as heard] to be discussed by the joint Algerian-Libyan Executive Committee and the means of removing them. At the same time, bilateral meetings between ministers and secretaries continued.

Delegations of both countries will visit the industrial zone at Rouiba this afternoon. The session's proceedings will resume at about 1600 at the level of ministers and secretaries.

Prime Minister Meets Libyan Official

LD1007143395 Tripoli JANA in English
1424 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Nasir [July] 7, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the general people's committee ['Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud] held a meeting in Algiers today with Mokdad Sifi, the Algerian prime minister. The secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation, the secretary of the general people's committee for unity, the Algerian foreign minister, Mohamed Salah Dembri and the state registrar for cooperation and Arab Maghreb affairs in Algeria attended.

The Algerian foreign minister announced at the end of the meeting that they discussed ways of advancing relations of cooperation to achieve economic integration between the sisterly countries and praised last year's achievement. They asserted that cooperation between Libya and Algeria is a form of strategic cooperation emanating from the spirit of the Hasi Massud charter, until realisation of the economic integration of the unity between the two countries.

Foreign Minister To Make Working Visit to Russia

LD0907175995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Salih Dembri tomorrow starts a working visit to Russia at the invitation of his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev.

The visit of Dembri, who is leading a delegation of experts, will allow the revival of bilateral cooperation or its restoration to the level it used to have few years ago.

As for Algeria, the aim is to give bilateral relations the same intensity and diversity which characterized relations with the former Soviet Union and adapting them to the reality existing in the two countries.

Dutch Minister, Envoy Discuss Agriculture

LD0807130495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The reactivation of the mixed Algerian-Dutch subcommittee in the agricultural sphere, particularly in connection with potato seeds, agricultural technology, and training were the most important issues discussed in the meeting yesterday between the Dutch agriculture minister and the Algerian ambassador to the Netherlands.

The meeting dealt particularly with the reactivation of agricultural cooperation and bilateral exchanges.

It is worth pointing out that the two countries had in 1981 installed a mixed subcommittee in the agricultural sphere, which held its last meeting in 1989.

New Director for Interior Ministry Installed

LD0807124895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Mustapha Benmansour, minister of the interior, local authorities, environment and administrative reform, installed on 4 July at the ministry's headquarters Mr. Kandil Moulay Mohamed, director of the Interior Ministry's office, succeeding Mr. Lahsan Siriak. [passage omitted]

Opposition Newsletter on Junta, Strike, Mubarak

MS1107101895 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 6 Jun 95

[Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 26 "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS supporters in Europe" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial — Legitimacy of the authority is the real issue in Algeria!

Praise be to Allah Who Says: "O mankind! do your duty to your Lord and fear (the coming of) a Day when no father can avail aught for his son, nor a son avail aught for his father. Verily, the promise of Allah is true: let not then this present life deceive you. nor let the chief deceiver deceive you about Allah." (Koran Surat Luqman, 31:33).

It has become some kind of a ritual for the Junta in Algeria to polarise the opinion on what it is known as "dialogue with the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]" or "negotiation with the FIS". These rituals have been taking place usually between June to November every year during the last three years. The period chosen does encompass the most important celebration dates for Algeria, as if by coincidence only. Under the orchestration of the Junta, the rituals always end with the verdict of "FIS guilty" then, a notification of end of "dialogue" (that did never take place) and the opening of another "genocide season" that would add a couple of tens of thousands dead victims to the register. The political sarcasm of the Junta has no limit when trying to manipulate the Algerian people. The propaganda machine via the Junta quasi-monopoly on the media, progressively brings the people "psycho" to a state of believing that "the end of the nightmare" is nearby and then as the euphoria reaches its peak, the dream is shattered and the FIS JAILED leaders are declared guilty of an extra-year of suffering! The frustration and probably anger of those who somehow, still believe that there is some decency left in the Junta behaviour, can then be understandable if their reaction is channelled in the right direction. The direction of "waking up from the dream" which usually leads to the club of those who believe strongly in the "mono-linguistic" nature of the Junta understanding.

If in previous years the purpose of the machination was to cut the tie between the Algerian people and the Mujahedeen, this year the scenario is played in the newly created scene called "presidential elections" from which the Junta is hopping to get some electoral dividend by playing the "dialogue" old song over again!

Some may ask why this pessimism or is there any rational basis for it! The answer lies first on the conditions under which these "negotiations" are presumably taking place and secondly on the confusing and often contradictory signs derived from the Junta officials declarations and thirdly on the issues at stake.

— The Junta propaganda machine was somehow able to convince many people that it is a normal thing to have negotiations on matters as vital as the Algerian situation, between one party that is free (the Junta) with another that is the "PRISONER" of the first (the FIS jailed leaders). While the Junta is at it, why not "negotiating" with the FIS jailed leaders on a torture table? Would an eventual agreement reached this way be respected? Islam is very clear on the matters related to "agreements" imposed in the absence of freedom! The rumours (true or false) about the FIS leaders being transferred from a small prison cell to a prison villa or a prison palace does not change anything on the issue of why the fighting is going on; neither will it subtract anything from the Junta inhumanity. The jailed FIS leaders have always clarified in writing that they are a part of the leadership not all the leadership despite the very high esteem and love in Allah the Shuyukh (may Allah hasten their freedom) have among the grassroots. The Junta better drop the sordid manoeuvres trying to dislocate the Jailed leaders from the grassroots and trying to divide the latter by projecting an imaginary friction between the Jailed leaders themselves. As long as the Junta persists in being the spokesman of the jailed FIS leaders and not allowing a direct contact between the Shayukh and the public, all what it is doing is just a mere act of illusionists as the magicians of Pharaoh did before it.

— Now you see it, now you don't! The Junta interior minister Mr Cherif Mezian in an interview published last Sunday (25/06/95) in the French newspaper "LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE" said amongst other things: "If the People are for the FIS, we will respect their decision." To the knowledge of all, the Junta did not undergo any internal overthrown and as its most official newspaper "EL DJEICH" puts it:" it is still a homogenous unbreakable and impenetrable..", so either the Junta has replaced the Algerian people that use to live in Algeria in December 1991 or Mr Cherif Mezian was talking about an eventual election done by another country's people to elect a leadership for the people of Algeria!

Less than 24 hours latter, the Junta TV attacked in a sublime and indirect way the declarations stated in the above interview by taking the London based newspaper "EL HAYAT" as a scapegoat against which the attacks should rebound. The TV announcement acknowledged the "contact" between the FIS jailed leaders and the Junta, and denied a bunch of "rumours" spread by the newspapers about the details of the "negotiations". The announcement also stated that it was an FIS initiative?! This was meant to belittle the FIS leadership and to project a distorted image of the military reality on the ground! The tone of the statement was much more harder than the interview. One may say that this is a attempt from the "eradicators" camp to sabotage the "negotiations" and that is why they have jumped on the opportunity of General Zeroual being absent from the country! In the eyes of the Algerian people, the Junta is collectively responsible and he who has freely accepted to seat in the Junta driver seat is the driver who is also free to resign in case he does not accept that many hands not of his, are also manoeuvring the steering-wheel against his will.

Most importantly are the issues at stack. Issues which the Junta propaganda machine tries to reduce to that of "liberating the FIS leaders from the Junta jail" or to that of "allowing the FIS to resume its political activity in Algeria" or "liberating the brothers from the concentration camps in the Sahara desert" or to that of "sharing power with the Junta or anyone else". The real issue is that of legitimacy of the authority and the question is: "what is the short, medium and long term effect of throwing in the dust-bin, the first post-independence free Algerian People choice of December 1991? Will, after that, any "legitimacy" be legitimate?"

They talk about the concessions the FIS should make for the sake of Realpolitik. The FIS has already reached the permissible limits in the "National contract", going any further is approaching dangerously a zone of incompressible set of principles and fundamentals which are related to faith, values and civilisation.

Principles for which the best of this Ummah would love to die much more than many of the rest would love to live.

The Junta "court of injustice" sentences 71 more people to death!

The "court of injustice" at Laghouat in southern Algeria sentenced 71 people to death, 70 of them in their absence, during its last sitting, the Junta announced last Thursday.

The Junta stated that 14 cases of "terrorism and state security offenses", the term used by Junta for the actions of the Mujahedeen, were among the 16 cases considered in the past two weeks.

The statement, reported by the Junta official news agency, did not say whether all those convicted were found guilty on "terrorist" charges.

There were 124 death sentences with 122 handed down in the absence of the accused, have been passed since February. In total there are 650 capital punishment verdicts passed and 26 people executed since the beginning of the conflict in January 92.

More than 50,000 workers from the Hydrocarbon sector in strike!

More than 50,000 workers from the strategic hydrocarbon sector have launched last saturday a strike that should last ten days initial. The Junta media tries to minimise the effect of such strick on the production and exportation of oil and gas. It has been the second strike in a month in the same sector. This strike has also touched the oil fields of Hassi R'mel and Hassi Messaoud. The demands are apparently related to organic affiliation with the state owned company Sonatrach. It is however expected that this strike will make workers in other sectors at ease in conducting industrial actions which have been effectively freezed as a result of the savage oppression which speared no one. Under the cover of "State security" all legitimate workers demands were suppressed.

Husni Mubarak escape from an assassination attempt!

Gunmen sprayed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's bulletproof limousine with automatic riflefire as he arrived at the Organisation of African Unity summit on Monday, but he was unhurt and flew back home, security officials and delegates said.

A delegate close to Egyptian officials said 12 bullets from AK-47 assault rifles hit the car — brought from Egypt — but did not penetrate the armour.

"If he were in an Ethiopian official car he would be dead by now," he said.

"There was heavy shooting, Egyptian security killed two gunmen, Ethiopian security killed one," a security official said.

Delegates to the meeting in the Ethiopian capital spoke of seven people being killed in the shootout outside the Palestinian foreign mission, which is on the way from the airport to the conference centre.

"There was blood all over the place," a witness said.

Security sources said six gunmen were involved.

A jeep blocked Mubarak's motorcade but the presidential car sped back towards the airport one km away.

Egypt's official television said Mubarak and all members of his delegation were safe after a failed assassination attempt.

"While the motorcade carrying the Egyptian delegation was heading towards the conference headquarters, some of its cars were subject to gunfire carried out by several persons," it said.

Mubarak's entourage returned to the Addis Ababa airport within minutes of the attack and he arrived back in Cairo shortly after noon.

Cabinet ministers and truckloads of soldiers and police as well as vans full of paratroopers and plainclothes police including anti-terrorist combat units met Mubarak at Cairo International Airport.

Egyptian television played national songs praising the 67-year- old Mubarak and showing pictures of him with his wife Susan.

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres immediately phoned Mubarak to congratulate him and called upon the world to combat terrorism. "To start with, thank heaven they didn't succeed and the president remains alive and he will be able to serve his people, the region, the peace process," Peres said.

Egypt

Mubarak Reportedly Considering Vice President

NC1107073595 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 Jul 95 p 17

[Report by 'Amr Nasif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports have circulated in Cairo that President Husni Mubarak is currently considering choosing a vice president. This idea is being considered with more persistence since the assassination attempt on his life in Addis Ababa.

AL-SAFIR has learned that President Mubarak favors choosing more than one vice president and that at least one of the vice presidents be from the military. He does not favor announcing his choice for a vice president now; he prefers to delay it to prevent security misunderstandings, particularly in light of the current atmosphere and the reactions to the assassination attempt. A responsible source thinks that President Mubarak is more likely to name a vice president in a major cabinet reshuffle that might be announced later this year.

Plans for Mubarak Assassination Bid Revealed

JN0707133095 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 26-29

[Report by Walid Abu-Zahr]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned from a European security source in possession of large files about the activities of extremist Islamists, their international networks, and their Sudanese and Iranian camps, that the assassination attempt against the Egyptian president was a highly professional operation that was skillfully prepared over two months ago. The source revealed information which confirms that the initial planning for this operation was done at a secret meeting held by an extremist Islamic group in a small village on the Franco-Swiss border. The village is called Virney Voltaire, part of which is located on the Swiss side and the other part on the French side.

Information indicates that the meeting, which was considered very serious, was held at the invitation of, and chaired by, Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the Egyptian Jihad who sought asylum in Switzerland. The meeting was attended by some leading Egyptian extremists, who came from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Europe. They included a representative of Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, who sought asylum in Pakistan; a representative of Tal'at Fu'ad (Abu-al-Qasim), who sought asylum in Denmark; and Mustafa Hamzah, a senior official of the Tala'i al-Fatah [the Fatah Vanguards], who arrived via Geneva using a Sudanese passport. Besides these Egyptians, there were elements representing Algerian extremists from the Arab Afghans, who established strong relations with extremist Egyptian groups in Afghanistan, where Egyptians supervise military training, and in the camps of Sudan. Some of those have strong personal relations with al-Zawahiri that go back to the days when he resided in Peshawar. The meeting was also attended by an imam of a small mosque in Switzerland. The imam is a close friend of al-Zawahiri and is considered the link and liaison officer between Egyptian and Moroccan groups in Europe.

Security information confirms that the attendees were unanimous about the need to carry out a major operation at the Addis Ababa summit, since the occasion provided a golden opportunity to carry out armed operations with minimal risks in view of the prevalent lack of security and the Islamic groups' infiltration of state agencies.

According to a Western security source, the idea of carrying out an assassination attempt on a high level was discussed on the sidelines of the Arab Islamic Popular Conference held in Khartoum late last March. The conference brought together the largest international number of the leading figures of Islamic extremism. The most dangerous of these figures held their secret meetings at villas in Khartoum suburbs. It seems that the focus of Western intelligence on that conference explains the absence of many extremist leaders from that conference. Thus, the attendees were content to agree on the need for coordination and left the planning for the operations for meetings to be held in private in Europe, including the Swiss-French border meeting. [passage omitted]

The border meeting was concluded. Hamzah and three Afghans returned to Khartoum to start preparing the armed groups that will take care of the operation. Security information say that these preparations took place in one of the extremists' camps to the north of Khartoum — a camp which is used by the al-Quds Troops—the International Islamic Battalion [al-katibah al-umamiyah al-islamiyah], which is supervised by officers from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. The battalion includes Arab and Muslim extremists from various nationalities. The groups were selected from commando units the majority of whose members belong to the Afghans, including Egyptians, Sudanese, Algerians, and Ethiopians. Reports say that the 'suicidal person' was selected from a group of those who returned from Afghanistan who are considered the striking force of Tala'i' al-Fatah and who are specialized in suicidal operations. The suicidal man was trained by experts from the Palestinian [Islamic] Jihad Movement, who have wide expertise in this type of operations, under the supervision of Iranian experts.

While the training operations were underway, a ten-man team arrived in Ethiopia to survey the site and the assembly areas and draw up detailed maps in cooperation with Sudan-backed Ethiopian radical groups. Ethiopian sources confirm that this team managed to secure the support of some Ethiopian security leaders who had provided the team with detailed information on the schedule of the summit and the activities of each participating president. They also facilitated the assembly of the armed groups and their escape after the execution of the operation.

Mustafa Hamzah was active on another front, that is, stepping up the smuggling of weapons into Egypt and arranging arms depots in preparation for the zero hour. Among these arms depots was the one that was unearthed by the Egyptian authorities in Kawm Umbu where 61 machine guns, grenades, 500 grams of TNT, and 300 BI sticks, which are usually used by armies, and a huge quantity of detonators and ammunition were found. This prompted observers to surmise that the Sudanese army's depots have been placed at the disposal of the Egyptian radical groups.

Following coordination with radical Ethiopian groups and after the collusion of some Ethiopian security agencies was guaranteed, 30 elements left Sudan for Ethiopia. Prior to that, necessary weapons were smuggled and the cars which would be used in the operation, including the booby-trapped car, were rented.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI reports confirm that in the meantime, al-Zawahiri had paid a secret visit to Sudan and Ethiopia during which he was acquainted with the final plan. He also met with the perpetrators and gave fiery speeches in their presence in which he underlined the importance of securing the success of the operation and avoiding any mistakes that would lead to the operation's failure as was the case in the assassination attempts against Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Continuing Tensions With Sudan

Arab-African Body Lodges Complaint

NC1007151895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab-African Economic and Social Development Organization has disclosed that it has submitted to the Egyptian Public Prosecutor a complaint against the man called Hasan al-Turabi, the leader of the group that directs the ruling regime in Sudan, and the man called Hasan al-Bashir, head of the Sudanese regime, on charges of attempting to kill the Egyptian president and his delegation.

The international nongovernmental organization, which is registered in the United States and has an office in Egypt, based its action on the fact that it has suffered great damage to its huge development projects in the economic and social fields in Egypt. Egypt, it said, is regarded as the mother state in the Arab and African region and enjoys the highest degree of stability and security.

The organization noted that the evil attempt on the life of President Mubarak originally targeted these stable bases and sought to create domestic and external disorder, which would prevent their organization from utilizing the opportunities provided by this safe country.

Commentary Warns Sudanese Regime

NC0707142995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Jul 95

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "The Tragedy of al-Turabi and al-Bashir and the Danger of Playing With Fire"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When dealing with the hostile Sudanese statements against Egypt, we must first differentiate between the Sudanese people and the ruling gang in Khartoum. Numerous experiences over many years have taught us to pay little attention to statements by officials in Khartoum, especially in times when Sudan is suffering from internal crises that the rulers cannot handle. That is when they try to escape by fabricating problems with Egypt and mobilizing the masses behind imaginary national issues. Nothing is easier than manipulating a few hundred persons, who can be easily deceived by whimsical statements meant for local consumption. This Sudanese policy is as old as the crises confronting the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime.

Hence, we stress right from the beginning that the fraternal Sudanese Arab people are one thing and the ruling regime and the parasites and mercenaries around it are something else. The Egyptian and Sudanese people are a single Arab people by virtue of their proximity, common religion, and long common history despite all the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime's aggressive and hostile practices against Egypt, despite all the vile plots against Egypt's security and people, and despite the provocative statements this regime's puppets have recently began to voice and reiterate.

The farce being played by the ruling regime in Khartoum and the comic roles it has given its men and tools—that of issuing farcical and hollow statements and reckless threats against Egypt—might be fatal for that very regime. Al-Turabi—who understands nothing but scheming, terrorism, and currying to outlaws—is threatening to use the Nile River water against Egypt. In threatening to violate the international agreements on the Nile water, al-Turabi forgets that this issue that is far beyond his authority and that he is ignorantly advancing toward danger lines that no sane person approaches or uses to inflame domestic emotions or to elicit cheers from his underlings and followers. Such issues involve Egypt's national security and this cannot be trifled with.

The Sudanese interior minister, one of the al-Turabi regime's tools, said there was a possibility that this regime might review all the agreements concluded with Egypt, particularly those he described as being vital to Egypt. There is no need for us to comment on such a statement. It immediately reveals the true mentality of those ruling in Khartoum and their political ideas, ideas that are, alas, deciding the fate of a fraternal Arab people.

The farcical role prepared for the Sudanese information minister was weak and pitiful. He said that the military option for deciding the Hala'ib issue still exists. We really do not know whether this Sudanese official understood the meaning of the words he was ordered to say. Did he really realize what the reactions of his listeners to these reckless statements and hollow threats would be?

The Sudanese regime has to understand that there is a limit to patience, and that such reckless and irresponsible statements are lethal only for itself. It has to understand that it would be better for it to avoid incitement and beating the drums of war. It has to avoid issues that affect Egypt's national security or arouse the Egyptians' feelings. Woe to those who play with fire if the patience of the tolerant ones runs out. These provocative campaigns and the latent hatred voiced by the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime's underlings cannot eclipse the major crime hatched in the terrorist camps in Sudan against the president of Egypt and the symbol of the Egyptian people and its dignity. With God's help, Egypt will remain an oasis of security, stability, and safety despite the schemes of the spiteful and the plots of the malevolent and resentful people.

AL-AHRAM Continues Criticism

NC0807072295 Cairo MENA in Arabic GMT 0505 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has warned the Khartoum government against crossing the red line of Egypt's patient policy. Egypt, it says, is contented with watching the domestic developments in Sudan without trying to interfere in its internal affairs because it is aware of the profound historical, cultural, and living relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

Today's editorial says the covert government in Sudan, "the al-Turabi front," realizes how fragile its political regime is and the magnitude of the internal crises it has created in the country and with neighboring countries. This government, it adds, resorts to stirring up trouble with Egypt by training and infiltrating elements of subversion and terrorism across the border and by making border claims over Hala'ib.

The paper expresses astonishment at the political regime that controls Sudan and says the current Sudanese regime cannot be included in the list of the regimes that we recognize de facto or de jure.

The paper adds that a selfish military government led by al-Bashir exists there. There is also the Islamic National Front, which forms the core of the government and shares roles with the government in a surprising and questionable way.

Attacks on 'Terrorists' Abroad Demanded

NC0807061395 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 4-6

[Article by Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "A New Strategy To Punish Terrorists Abroad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] What is preventing Egypt from taking its battle with terrorism outside its borders? What is preventing it from pursuing terrorist leaders wherever they are, punishing them to spare Egypt from danger, severing the ties between them and their followers in their country? This would dry up the source of the plot aiming to tire and weaken Egypt.

Why should these people remain free in the world's capitals? There, they make plans, collect funds, smuggle weapons, and take part in a major plot involving forces, groups, and states that sponsor terrorism. They sponsor terrorism by sheltering and supporting it, covering up its actions and crimes, and by using it to achieve evil objectives and harm Egypt's interests and national security.

The plot against President Mubarak in Addis Ababa reveals an organized crime with international dimensions. It involved several parties, allowing them to bring many weapons into Addis Ababa and prepare a precise timetable for implementing a detailed plot, which was created by security professionals. How long should we let these people wreak havoc from abroad? How long should we maintain our cautious position, exercise self-restraint, suppress our anger, and limit our reactions? We do not see a criminal outside our house and then wait for him to commit his crime inside—through using other individuals, mere tools, who were recruited for a few pounds.

In the past two years, Egyptian security achieved great successes that demolished much of the organizational infrastructure of the terrorist groups. Most of the dangerous terrorist leaders in the country have been captured and the range of their activities has been restricted to minor incidents. However, these successes will be temporary if we cannot sever the arteries that pump the plans, funds, and weapons to those abroad. We must stop this incessant bleeding.

We are witnessing a period of relative calm in the country. Terrorist crimes have been restricted, their danger reduced, and opportunities for major, vile crimes have been stopped. This situation will only continue if we cut off the foreign sources; terrorism is an evil tree that will only die if it is uprooted. The roots of terrorism extend beyond Egyptian soil, which rejects such actions and crimes. This rejection is clear and categorical, it needs no proof. [passage omitted]

Egypt's voice has become hoarse from warning the world's capitals of the threats to the security of these same countries from protecting terrorists and their leaders. But Egypt has not yet received any sincere responses. What took place in the United States was a sufficient, beneficial lesson. On al-Turabi's recommendation, the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum gave the Shaykh of Terrorism, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, a visa to enter the United States. There, he found safe shelter as one of the Egyptian opposition leaders. Then, the World Trade Center in New York was blown up, exposing the United States' stupid behavior.

This lesson learned was enough to make the world capitals respond to Cairo's repeated warnings to stop giving safe havens to terrorists. But, regrettably, the terrorist leaders are still alive and moving freely in these capitals without any deterrent.

Chasing terrorism to its last outposts beyond the borders has almost become a legitimate act, backed by a number of international precedents. Why should Cairo conform to rules others do not comply with? Why should its arm not be long enough to punish the Egyptian terrorist leaders abroad who are threatening Egypt's interests and national security?

We will not be the first or the last to do so. In Latin America, the United States publicly and openly kidnapped Manuel Noriega, the president of Panama, from his palace. The kidnapping gained international legitimacy because Noriega was involved in smuggling drugs to the American people. In the Middle East, Israel is chasing, assassinating, and openly and publicly killing Hizballah's leaders outside its borders, even though Hizballah's actions fall within the framework of legitimate resistance. There are numerous other, well-known examples. Why should Cairo then restrain its hand from reaching a few individuals who have made terrorism their trade?

Egypt's security organs have a long history of brilliant actions abroad to protect Egypt's national security. Yes, some mistakes did blemish this role and some violations did occur, but this does not justify ignoring this national role, particularly if the objective is to protect Egypt from the dangers of a terrorism that is threatening its security and stability.

I believe that we still can do so.

Drying up the sources of terrorism requires a new Egyptian strategy aimed at deterring the terrorist leaders abroad, who are sowing corruption in a number of capitals. It also requires deterring the rulers of Khartoum, who have turned Sudan into a den of conspiracies for terrorist actions in Egypt. I believe that the incrimination is clear and no further evidence is needed. [passage omitted]

Al-Turabi's recent threats to repeal the water agreement with Egypt reveals this man's deep hostility to Egypt and its people, whom al-Turabi wants to die of thirst. This was followed by other statements by Interior Minister al-Tayyib Muhammad, in which he said there will be a comprehensive review of all the agreements signed by Sudan and Egypt, including agreements that will "hit Egypt where it hurts." Thus spoke the Sudanese interior minister. He was, of course, referring to the Nile water agreement that al-Turabi had threatened to repeal two days earlier. But these threats are no more than hollow drums, just like the war cries filling the skies of Khartoum now, because tampering with the Nile means threatening the very life of Egypt. It even means war. Both al-Turabi and al- Bashir know this very well.

All developments confirm that it is impossible to coexist with the present regime in Khartoum, who might commit some desperate idiocy, and this makes it necessary for Cairo to keep all its options open, including the military one. But all the options should take into account the safety of the Sudanese people and their national resources and should differentiate between the ruling regime and the Sudanese masses who are waiting for an opportunity to get rid of an ugly regime that has ruled their country for six years, the most difficult and harshest years of their lives.

We should work to intensify this regime's isolation at all levels—Arab, regional, and international—because it is an ugly regime and there is no hope of reforming it.

We have to use all possible deterrents to weaken its ability to give shelter to terrorist groups and to train them.

To the greatest extent possible, we must help the Sudanese opposition, which is now attracting the masses of the Sudanese people, who are awaiting an opportunity to go into the streets of Khartoum in a massive act of civil disobedience that will topple the ugliest regime that has ever ruled Sudan.

The Sudanese people have done so twice and will most certainly do it for a third time.

Musa on Current Tensions With Sudan

NC1007143795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1310 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the current tension between Egypt and Sudan is based on serious accusations leveled at Sudan not only by Egypt but also by a great number of African and Arab countries.

In statements today, the foreign minister added that it is now known that there is a connection between the Sudanese Government or Sudanese policy and the current manifestations of violence in several of these countries, be they neighboring or regional. He stressed the need to put an end to this issue.

He noted that in any case the Egyptian-Sudanese relations are able to withstand this and bigger issues because they have firm historical and essential origins.

He expressed his hope that the Sudanese Government will adopt measures to overcome the existing crisis. He noted that this would be done by proving that the Sudanese Government did not have any connection with any of these practices in the past, nor will it have any from now on.

Musa said the investigations into the attempted attack on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa have not yet been completed.

Commenting on the Sudanese authorities' arrest of a number of Egyptian engineers from the cement company in Khartoum, Musa said such acts must be avoided because they escalate the situation.

He affirmed that Egypt's relations with the Arab countries, including Sudan, must have positive bases, something Egypt has always paid great attention to.

Commenting on Egyptian-Saudi relations, he said they are extremely good. If there are problems concerning Egyptian nationals in Saudi Arabia, he noted, they should be resolved at that level, without exaggeration or one-upsmanship, otherwise inter-Arab relations will be caught in a spiral of exaggerated claims.

He emphasized the importance of calm in handling such issues and said inter—Arab relations should be handled with reason, not only by governments but by everyone.

More Material for 'Terrorism' Seized

NC1007173495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1545 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—The security agencies have foiled a new plot by the terrorist leaders abroad to ship material for terrorism to their cadres in Sudan via Cairo International Airport.

This morning, State Detective Agency personnel seized another shipment of parcels containing terrorist material that was sent from an Asian country to Sudan via Cairo airport.

The seized material included forged Egyptian military service certificates, forged Egyptian family and personal identity cards, some forged Ministry of Defense blank travel permits, computer diskettes, cassette tapes belonging to Islamic groups, video cassettes of terrorist operations and how to carry them out, sharp edged weapons, assembly tools, chemical material, ink, forging instruments, and large quantities of books on terrorist operations.

A security source said in a statement today that the security agencies managed this morning to seize another collection of parcels containing items intended for terrorism. It consists of three steel trunks and two cardboard boxes.

This measure was part of the State Security Detective agencies' effort to deal with terrorist plots directed from abroad and came less than 24 hours after the security operation that foiled the plots of terrorist organization leaders abroad to send terrorist material to their cadres in Sudan via Cairo airport.

The source said the State Security Detective agencies monitored this material abroad and followed its movement aboard a plane coming from an airport in an Asian country to a European capital en route to Sudan via Cairo airport. The sender is a fugitive terrorist leader abroad called Midhat Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Hasan.

The source said that after the plane landed, cargo handlers at the airport took the material to transfer it for forwarding to Sudan on an aircraft due to leave for Khartoum, addressed to a certain Ibrahim Abu Hasanayn who resides in Khartoum. Then, the source added, after obtaining permission from the Higher State Security Prosecution, the security personnel inspected the parcels, which consisted of three steel trunks and two cardboard boxes. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian security source explained that the hostile attempts by the terrorist leaders in Sudan to carry out plots in Egypt from across its southern border and which were discovered and foiled, employed similar material.

The source said the recent monitoring, follow up, and seizure procedures have shown that terrorist leaders abroad with all their persuasions are at this time trying to reassemble their forces and capabilities in order to shift their activity to Sudan. Sudan, it added, has become a primary base for terrorism in the region, which helps create extensive disturbances in the region.

The source said the seizure was documented and that the Higher State Security Prosecution has been notified to investigate and check the seized items.

Brotherhood Official Denies Links to Islamic Group

NC1007180995 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 23 Jun 95 p 27

[Exclusive interview with Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-'AHD] Can you brief us on the existing conditions in Egypt?

[Mashhur] There are certain problems in Egypt. The Islamic movements, including the Muslim Brotherhood are subjected to certain kinds of harassment. Due to pressures and unemployment some youngsters resort to violence, which triggers counterviolence by the government. The youngsters have some excuses. They usually react as a result of pressure and the suppression of freedom. Therefore, freedoms must be realized and the economic problems must be resolved so that tension eases. The People's Assembly elections will be held this year, and the government is afraid that the Muslim Brotherhood will take part in these elections because it knows that the Egyptian public supports the Muslim Brotherhood. The government is afraid that it might not obtain the necessary votes to continue in power, and that is why it is fighting and intimidating the Muslim Brotherhood.

[AL-'AHD] Can you describe your relations with the other parties?

[Mashhur] Actually, we are allied with the Labor Party and the Liberal Party. We have coordination with these two parties. But we have no coordination or relationship with the other parties.

[AL-'AHD] What about the Islamic Group?

[Mashhur] We have no relationship with it and we reject the method of confrontation.

[AL-'AHD] You said that the authorities are fighting the Muslim Brothers to prevent them from triumphing in the general elections. How do you describe the situation of the trade unions, particularly amid the authorities' efforts to control them?

[Mashhur] The authorities believe that the Muslim Brotherhood will triumph in the trade union elections. They claim that an organized minority of the Muslim

Brotherhood could enable the Muslim Brotherhood to win seats in the trade unions because the majority of the trade union members will not participate in the elections. Hence, the authorities enacted a law according to which more than 50 percent of the trade union members must take part in the elections. Although we rejected this law, it is still applied. However, the Muslim Brotherhood members took part in the elections held under this law and more than 50 percent took part and elected the Muslim Brotherhood. This is the situation. The authorities do not want the Muslim Brotherhood to control the trade unions. They enacted the laws as obstacles but the Muslim Brotherhood managed to overcome them.

[AL-'AHD] How do you assess the ongoing [Palestinian-Israeli] negotiations from the Egyptian viewpoint?

[Mashhur] They say it is peace, but we say it is capitulation. We are against it. We rejected Camp David during al-Sadat's era. We also reject the Oslo and other agreements. The enemy needs these agreements with the cordon states to ensure that war will not outbreak with any member state. [passage omitted]

Musa, League Chief Discuss Sudan, Arab Action Document

NC1007145295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1320 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today.

Musa said after the meeting that he had informed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid of the results of the Damascus Declaration states foreign ministers' meeting and the document proposed by Egypt as a framework for Arab action, which the foreign ministers had approved.

The Damascus Declaration foreign ministers decided to refer Egypt's document to their governments to discuss it within the framework of the Arab League and Arab solidarity.

For his part, the Arab League chief said Arab and non-Arab issues as well as Sudanese-Egyptian relations were discussed at his meeting with Musa.

He stressed his concern to ease and contain the situation and do whatever is possible to achieve this through the Arab League.

He said we want to avoid escalating the situation between Egypt and Sudan at this stage, and to resolve things in a way that will prevent any future problems or difficulties, because Egyptian-Sudanese relations are eternal and deep-rooted.

He said that Sudan's representative at the Arab League has asked for a meeting with him and proposed that the League be ready to help bring the viewpoints closer. But these issues should first be addressed on the bilateral level, he said.

On the arrest of a number of Egyptians in Khartoum, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that any moves that do not help ease the situation are out of place, and the Arab League is eager to avoid any escalation.

Israel's Tzur Meets Musa, Comments on Peace Talks

NC1107110195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1045 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today conferred with Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'agov Tzur, who is visiting Cairo.

Tzur said afterward that his country appreciates Egypt's role in promoting the peace process and in following up the implementation of the Arab-Israeli agreements.

Concerning the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track, the Israeli minister said he hoped an agreement on the second stage of the Declaration of Principles would be concluded by 25 July. He added: If circumstances dictate that the date be delayed for two more weeks, there will be no harm done. What is important, he added, is that we are proceeding toward an agreement.

Tzur pointed out that moving the Palestinian-Israeli talks on the redeployment of Israeli troops and preparations for the Palestinian elections to Italy is a step that "has no important political significance." The important thing is to make progress toward concluding an agreement and finalizing all the details, he added. The two main issues are security and water, and talks about them will be held in the coming weeks, he added.

The Israeli minister expressed confidence in the possibility of reaching an agreement with the Palestinians. He added that the Israelis and Palestinians have no alternative, but to reach an agreement.

Concerning relations between Egypt and Israel, the Israeli minister said that during his current visit to Egypt a protocol for agricultural cooperation will be signed within the framework of bilateral cooperation.

Iran Tells Egypt: U.S. Supports Radicals

95AE0038A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
15 May 95 p 8

[Article by Mahmud Bakri: "Tehran Promises Egypt To Present Complete File Proving U.S. Involvement in Supporting Violence, Denies U.S. Allegations About Iranian Military Units in Port Sudan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Recent times have witnessed concentrated contacts between Egypt and Iran for the purpose of overcoming outstanding disagreements. After the recent meeting between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in connection with the Nonaligned Conference in Bandung, Egyptian officials met with the Iranian delegation that participated in the crime prevention conference held recently in Cairo, where the Iranian delegation was headed by the Iranian public prosecutor Ayatollah Mortaza Moqtada'i.

The Egyptian-Iranian contacts have come at a time when Iran is trying to overcome the disagreements with Egypt that accumulated during the past years. They are part of an attempt on Iran's part to blunt coming U.S moves. Information available on the subject indicates that the Iranians have received many reports that the United States is now moving seriously to form a Western-Arab axis against Iran and that Washington intends to form an axis stronger than the one formed during the Kuwait-Iraq crisis. Washington wants Egypt to be the first Arab country to join this axis.

The U.S. State Department has begun to raise the issue of the Iranian presence in Sudan as representing "the greatest fundamental danger" to Egyptian security. Washington has transmitted information to Egypt alleging that Iran is preparing a number of armed Iranian militias to carry out specific missions in Port Sudan harbor aimed at carrying out military activity that could harm Egyptian security. AL-MUHARRIR has learned that the U.S. State Department has unambiguously transmitted to Egypt allegations about a joint Sudanese-Iranian attempt to resolve militarily the disagreement about the Halayib area disputed between Cairo and Khartoum, particularly after Egypt's escalated measures in the area. The U.S. State Department alleged that Iran had expressed its agreement to bear the greater burden in the operation of resolving the situation in Hala'ib militarily. According to the American advice, Egypt should therefore act by any means to end the Iranian military presence in Sudan.

According to Egyptian circles, the U.S. Administration wants to guarantee active Egyptian intervention against alleged Iranian military targets in Sudan. The information points to U.S. assessments that say that Egypt's military move against Iran in Sudan will prepare the way for the success of the contacts that [the United States] intends to encourage for the purpose of forming an Arab-Western military axis against Iran.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry experts think that if Egypt supports the U.S. efforts to establish such an axis, it will have a positive influence on the positions of many other Arab states. The U.S. State Department has initiated contacts for this purpose with Saudi Arabia and the Emirates in addition to Egypt, but the three countries have not yet promised to provide practical assistance against Iran.

It was learned in Cairo that Iran knew in advance of the Egyptian-U.S. contacts that preceded the recent decision, and particularly of the U.S. State Department report that was sent to the Egyptian Government about the mechanisms and methods of terrorism in Egypt. The 40-page report focused on the Iranian role. This was a stimulus for Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his talks with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa and for the Iranian delegation to the crime prevention conference to focus on the issue of Iranian support for violent groups in Egypt. Tehran asked Cairo to present documents and evidence to prove this. Tehran's request focused on the presentation of certain documents about a few particular cases:

—Egyptian and other Arab terrorist leaders present in Iran.

—The volume and types of weapons transported from Iran to Sudan or to any third country and allegedly used in carrying out acts of violence in Egypt.

—The training camps in Iran that Egypt thinks are used to implement these operations on its territory.

—The size, nature, and location of the camps located in Sudan that allegedly are supervised by Iranian military experts.

—Overseas contacts between Iranians and overseas leaders of violent Egyptian groups.

The Iranian side promised that, if Egypt provided documents and evidence about any or all of these five points, Iran would cooperate seriously with the Egyptian security authorities and government to unearth all the facts.

The Iranian side concentrated on two basic points:

First, Iran does not support the operations of violent groups in Egypt.

Second, all the leaders that Egyptian security authorities suspect of being leaders in the so-called terrorist movement in Egypt are not located on Iranian territory. Tehran is ready to cooperate fully with Cairo and supply it with a file that will reveal their real supporter.

The information states that the Egyptian side has welcomed the opportunity to examine this file. There is information indicating that it focuses on the U.S. role in supporting armed violence in Egypt. The file is said to contain certain recordings of U.S. contacts with a number of extremist leaders abroad for the purpose of implementing operations in Egypt and in many other countries. The Iranian file also contains particular details about the Israeli role and about certain mercenaries whom Israel has recently hired to carry out terrorist operations.

For its part, the Iranian side stated its position on certain issues of dispute with Egypt as follows:

1. The purpose of Sudanese-Iranian relations is cooperation and the increase of common bonds between the countries. At no time were these relations intended to form an axis against Egypt's security. Iran is prepared to inform Egypt about many cooperation agreements between the two countries for this purpose.

To prove their good intentions in this regard, the Iranians have proposed that Egypt be a third party in the many cooperation agreements between Iran and Sudan. This would prove that Iran is strengthening the security of both countries together. The Iranians have gone even further and have expressed their readiness to mediate in order to remove the present tepidness in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

2. The ongoing development operations in Port Sudan harbor are connected to trade and economic relations between the two countries; they involve no military implications against Egypt.

Cairo information says that the Iranian side has expressed its desire to raise the level of diplomatic representation with Egypt in the coming period as this could help resolve some aspects of disagreement between the countries. However, Egypt has not responded favorably to this and has stressed the need to resolve many aspects of disagreement before making any decision to raise the level of diplomatic representation between the countries.

Evaluating these developments, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry report states that Iran has indeed offered some facilitation with regard to determining the circumstances surrounding acts of violence. However, the report indicates that the Iranians still have much information about the matter and that Egypt in the present stage will be satisfied to obtain Iran's promise not to provide any assistance or aid under any cover to any operations of this kind on its territory.

Al-Baz Returns From Talks in Greece

NC0807070395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo early this morning after a two-day visit to Greece.

During his stay in Athens, al-Baz held talks with Greek officials on relations between Egypt and Greece.

Leaves for 3-Day London Visit

NC1007080495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0743 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo for London today on a three-day visit.

Dr. Al-Baz will hold talks with the British foreign secretary and the minister of state for foreign affairs. They will discuss Middle Eastern developments.

PLO Executive Member Mahmud 'Abbas Arrives

NC1107052595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, a PLO Executive Committee member, arrived in Cairo from Tunis tonight on a one-day visit to Egypt. In an arrival statement he said he will meet Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to offer congratulations on President Husni Mubarak's escape from the sinful assassination attempt in Addis Ababa on 26 June. He noted that he will also brief Musa on developments in the peace process and the negotiations with the Israeli side.

Syrian Information Minister Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0907085695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Syrian information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman this morning. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif was present.

Dr. Salman said after the meeting that he conveyed to President Husni Mubarak a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad on several topics of concern to the two fraternal countries. The two leaders are eager to exchange views on these issues, he added.

Dr. Salman emphasized the feelings of brotherhood and President Hafiz al-Asad's and the Syrian people's congratulations on President Mubarak's safety and escape from the treacherous attack. Salman added that President Mubarak asked him to convey a message of greetings and appreciation to President al-Asad.

Salman Leaves Cairo

NC1007053295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2124 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman left Cairo tonight after a six-day visit to Egypt. During his visit he handed President Mubarak a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He also participated in the meetings of the 28th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council.

Australian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC0807160495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Gareth Evans, Australian minister of foreign affairs and trade, arrived in Cairo this evening on a one-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, he will hold talks with officials at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. In the meetings, he will review a number of bilateral issues, as well as discuss bilateral relations between Egypt and Australia.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives, Hands Mubarak Message

NC0907174995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal today handed President Husni Mubarak a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. In his message King Fahd congratulates President Mubarak on his escape from the aggressive attempt on his life in Addis Ababa. He said that the message also discusses Arab relations, the current situation in the region, and bilateral ties. President Mubarak received the Saudi Foreign minister in Alexandria this afternoon. Foreign Minister Musa, who arrived in Alexandria with his Saudi counterpart after the conclusion of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers meeting in Manama earlier today, also attended the meeting.

Qatar Agrees To Transport Gas Through Suez Canal

NC0907201795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Engineer Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, has stated that the Qatari Government has agreed to transport Qatari natural gas by tanker through the Suez Canal. In a statement to AL-AHRAM newspaper's Monday [10 July] issue, he said that the Qatari Government's agreement came after contacts between it and the Suez Canal Authority to bolster the national economy of both countries.

New Radio To Begin Transmission in Hala'ib 14 Jul

NC1007135295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has announced that the Hala'ib local radio will start experimental transmissions as of next Friday [14 July].

He said the final arrangements for the Hala'ib local radio will be complete on Thursday evening so that experimental transmission will begin Friday morning. He added that the new radio has 10 kilowatts of power and transmits on a frequency of 882 kHz. Transmission hours, he noted, will be split over two periods—the first from 0600-1000 and the second from 1800-2400. The station will broadcast recitations of the Koran, songs, and music.

The information minister has issued a decree appointing the radio operators and managers, including broadcasters and engineers.

Al-Sharif said the radio will be a lively voice, expressive of the residents of that cherished Egyptian territory. It will express their views and hopes and will link them with the motherland.

He added that the radio will begin live transmissions as soon as the engineering work on the broadcast studio is completed in the next few weeks. In the future, he noted, several of the local residents will be chosen to present programs, a measure which will link the radio station with its local people. He said coordination has been set up between the Armed Forces' morale affairs department and the local radio to provide resources and assistance to Hala'ib radio.

The armed forces' morale affairs department has donated more than 1,000 radio sets to Hala'ib residents to enable them to listen to their station.

The information minister said people in Hala'ib City, Bi'r Shalatayn, and (Abu Ramad) will (?clearly) view Egyptian television from transmitter stations that were built two years ago. He added that the final stages are being completed on a project to install microwave networks and transmitting stations for the first and second channels. This is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Morocco

King Hassan Gives Speech on Youth Day

LD0907154495 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2119 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Speech by King Hassan II marking "Youth Day" at the Royal Palace — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Thanks be to God. Prayers and peace be upon our master the prophet of God, his kinfolk, and companions. Dear people: Commemoration of feasts is not always with games, sport, manifestations, or illuminations. Sometimes commemoration must be a stage for a pause and an occasion for analysis and thinking. At a time when we are marking Youth Day, is there anything, dear people, more honorable, dearer, or more sacred than youth, the future of youth, and the aspirations of the young for us to think about. There is indeed a problem which we see in Morocco, and which we can summarize in this way: Jobless young Moroccans include illiterate youths but also youths who have primary education certificates, Baccalaureat diplomas, and even doctorates. Is this a curse from Heavens as the ancient Greeks would say, or is this the result of negligence on the part of Morocco. I would say: neither this nor that. [passage omitted]

Since independence, Morocco has been trying to Arabize and make education universal. Perhaps these constant efforts caused us not to stop and think or find an opportunity to analyse and plan for even a single moment. The first reason is the state in which we are living today.

There are, however, those who would say that we have been reading in European newspapers last week that, in France for example, there are 20,000 doctors of whom 9,000 received doctorate degrees with distinction. They, too, are unemployed.

I say that there is a difference here, a very, very, very big difference. Why is there a difference? Dear people, while you read the newspapers and watch television and follow what is going on in the world, there is no doubt, when we take France as an example, since the 1980's we have had one bill after another in parliament either stopped, amended, or thrown out all together.

There is dialogue and deep thought, there is above all, a political dialogue. When I say political, I mean responsible dialogue. [passage omitted]

We asked the two bodies — the executive and the legislative — to apply themselves to working towards giving us the results of their attributes, reflections, and farsightedness. [passage omitted]

I found something that really alarmed me. First, that there were still some ideas from the 1960's which dominated their thinking and were even put forward in the program. Second, I heard that there was a very strong predominant trend towards complete Arabicization from the primary stage. Finally, I found that the problem of free education had been considered but, as if it was fire, nobody wanted to touch it or as though it were a snake which would eat them. [passage omitted]

How many parliamentarians are there on the committees? There are 80. How many technocrats are there? There are 250. This means that there are three times more nonparliamentary technocrats than parliamentarians on the committees. Why have I mentioned these figures? At the beginning of my speech I told you that there is also a deficit in France; there was a problem but the political class was the one which took it by the hand. The political class is the one responsible to those who elected it. It is the one which thought of free education and it is the one which thinks of training. It is also the one which thinks of the manner of education and teaching. Here, the issues were reversed and we ended up with one third of the responsible politicians, of the politicians who consider the target first, then lay down the plan and method for it. They form one third of the committee which includes nearly 100 members of the parliament's 300 members.

I do not want to appear to be directing strong blame toward this person or that. Perhaps the work of this committee was expected to end in the way it did, due to the fact that it was the first experiment. But, before the national committee submits its report to me, I say to it: Please review your structure first, review the criteria of your responsibility, which are political criteria, and third, review your copy inasmuch as it includes the thinking of the 1960's, absolute and blind Arabization, and reckless free education.

My dear people and youths, tell me until when do we have to march on the road of freedom of education? God is Great [responding to a call for prayers]. Until when do we have to march on the road of freedom of education? A day will come when we will not find anything to spend either on medicine, or roads, equipment, or electricity, or even on the teachers who teach you.

We can find solutions to this problem. This is why I said that we should think in a political way.

First, among the solutions is encouraging private schools. This encouragement has currently been put forward before the parliament, where private schools are considered as an industrial investment. Thus, they enjoy all the privileges enjoyed by all other enterprises.

On the other hand, is it reasonable, dear people, that the state should pay the same subsidy for all pupils and students, irrespective of their social and economic situation? Is it reasonable to pay for the sons or daughters of the rich the same amount that we pay for the sons or daughters of the poor? In this respect, many people who call for free education send their children to schools belonging to diplomatic missions or foreign schools here in Morocco and we all know what the education of their children there costs them. What I am saying is that necessity oblige! I have an idea, dear people, which I am going to propose to you, students, teachers, politicians, all sections of the people: Why do we not think of a method and look for an objective criteria, a means test, to decide who should enjoy free education and who should not? I believe that there is a criteria, that of tax payment bands: He who does not pay taxes will be offered free education for his children from the primary to the university level; he who pays a little amount of tax would pay a little amount for the education of his children; and he who pays a substantial amount of taxes would pay two-thirds for instance, or three quarters, of the cost of the education of his children as do most rich people and even middle class people. If we manage to introduce this rectification, dear people, it would be a fair one because we would be teaching the needy free of charge, from the bounty that God has bestowed on his rich brothers. If we save just a third of the education budget, we would be rich. Do you know, dear people, that a third of the education budget is 400 billion [currency unspecified]. With this 400 billion we would be able to encourage scientific research and then many doctors of mathematics, whether abroad or here, would have jobs and Morocco would benefit from this. Second, this would permit us to improve the lives of teachers. [passage omitted]

Dear people, I want people of both my generation and that of my sons, who are on either side of me, I want all of us to take the oath, as one, that we do not ever again want to see what we have seen — we do not want to see unemployed graduates, from today onward. For this purpose, we must pave the way to be faithful to our oath. [passage omitted]

We need at least six months to think about it and at least one a half years to lay down structures. Then we will start full implementation [of the education fees] at all levels. For this reason, I propose that there be a deep modification, both in form and in substance, of the parliamentary committee which is in charge of this file or rather in charge of this fateful issue. Two ministers should be added to the committee: First, the minister of Islamic affairs to see to it that our future society will not deviate but rather will remain Sunni and Malekite, sticking to the Koran, the Sunna [traditions set by the Prophet] and the Jama'a [term for religious authorities]; the second minister should be the minister of agriculture, to be fair to the rural areas. [passage omitted]

I ask the committee to revise its copy, as it were, and to revise the leaning by some of its members toward the thinking of the 1960's and also to ask some of its members not to sentence Morocco, or the future Morocco, to life in jail with complete Arabization of the curriculum of education. So long as I am here, looking after individual and collective liberties, I shall stand against this idea of complete Arabization, out of my consideration that it would infringe on the freedom, dignity, and capability of Moroccans to compete with others and even to be at the forefront in the scientific and sports domains.

Dear people: You should think, with me, about the measure of free education. In the past during the days of the [French] protectorate school grants were given to outstanding pupils. Today, we give school grants to the pupil or the student who has nothing or whose parents have nothing for 100 percent free education. [passage omitted]

Education could be 80 percent free to the pupils who come in the next category and 40 percent free for the following category until we get to the category which would not have any free education.

If we take into account the social segments and their purchasing power we might save 400 billion centimes annually as I have already said. With this amount we could build and construct and we would also raise the standard of the teachers about whom the poet said: The teacher is nearly as eminent as the prophet. [passage omitted]

I am certain that today I have, modestly, as a citizen, as a father figure, as a patriot, opened some windows which were closed so that you could see some blue sky through them and breathe some fresh air. I am also certain, dear people and dear youthd, that you will not be pessimistic but will be my partners in all the categories and in all the schools and in all the colleges and in all the institutes; you will be my partners in trying to attain what we visualise and imagine, namely, the greatness and the glory of this nation in the shadow of its religion and sacred beliefs, coupled with the prayers to Almighty God to fulfil what has been revealed in His holy Koran: If God findeth any good in your hearts, He will give you something better than that which has been taken from you. He also taught us this prayer: "Our Lord! Bestow on us mercy from Thyself and dispose of our affair for us in the right way." May peace and mercy of God be upon you.

Minister Issues Statement on By-Election Nominees

LD0807170195 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The interior minister has issued a statement on the number of approved permits given to those interested in taking part in the upcoming legislative and local by-elections.

The statement says that at the closing date for receiving applications, the final number of nominations in the direct legislative by-election for the five vacant seats at the House of Representatives was 32, divided as follows:

The Constitutional Union Party	4 candidates
The National Popular Movement	4 candidates
The Progress and Socialism Party	4 candidates
The Popular Movement	3 candidates
The Istiqlal Party	3 candidates
The National Rally of Independents	3 candidates
The National Democratic Party	3 candidates
The Socialist Union of Popular Forces	2 candidates
The Organization for Popular and Democratic Action	2 candidates
The Action Party	1 candidate
The Independents	3 candidates

Concerning the indirect legislative by-election within the framework of the workers' representative body, one nomination was lodged by Mohamed Tatani Alaoui Drissi from the General Union of Moroccan Workers.

A total of 4 permits were submitted for the vacant seat in the body of the local authorities councils' memberships for Casablanca- Anfa prefecture. These were submitted by:

Ahmed Yahiaoui from the Constitutional Union Party;
Saad Abbasi from the National Rally of Independents;
Ali Aberkak Bouazzaoui from the Popular Movement;
Abderrahmane Chennaf from the Socialist Union of Popular Forces;

In connection with the local authorities' by-elections, the number of approved permits for nominations for the 126 vacant seats reached 327, divided as follows:

The Istiqlal Party	54
The National Rally of Independents	28
The Constitutional Union Party	27
The Popular Movement	27
The Socialist Union of Popular Forces	25
The Progress and Socialism Party	23
The National Popular Movement	18
The National Democratic Party	10
The Action Party	02
The Choura and Istiqlal Party	01
Non-Affiliated	112

The direct legislative by-elections and local elections will start at 0800 GMT and finish at 1800 GMT on Friday 14 July 1995. As for the indirect legislative by-election for the workers' legislative body and the Casablanca-Anfa local elections, the voting will start at 1400 GMT and finish at 1800 GMT, at the latest.

*Daily Discusses Economic Relations With EC

95AF0104A Rabat AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic 24 May 95 p 7

[Article by Muhammad Lehlu: "Marketing, Funding, Investment, and Development Issues in Morocco's Relations With European Community; Muhammad Lehlu on European Market and Textile Sector: 'The Restructuring of Europe's Textile Sector Has Begun, and We Have To Renew Our Strategy According to a Well-Rounded View of the Future; Much Time Has Been Wasted; What Is Required is a National Plan for Textiles'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the third and final session of the 5-6 May symposium, which was organized by AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI and held at the

'Umar Benjalun Auditorium in the newspaper's building in Casablanca, the subject of discussion was the problem of marketing Moroccan products in the countries of the European Community [EC] and the effects of that problem on the economic and investment aspects of Morocco's economic transactions with the EC.

The importance of the topics that were listed in that regard stemmed from the relationship that exists between them and those areas that play a bigger part in Morocco's economy. It also stemmed from the fact that these areas of the economy had grown and developed according to guidelines aimed at meeting the needs of Europeans. As time passed, however, numerous aspects of Europe's commitments to Morocco receded. These were commitments that Moroccan officials had counted on to achieve economic and social development locally. Details of what was talked about in this session are provided in this report.

Volume of Trade Between Morocco and the European Community (in Million Dirhams)

Imports	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total	30,873.0	33,304.0	33,847.2	33,720.8	35,604.1
Wheat	722.9	752.6	1,378.5	762.0	595.7
Materials for industrial equipment	10,743.7	11,412.8	12,225.5	12,663.3	10,617.5
Exports	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total	22,671.4	23,249.0	21,747.5	21,457.5	23,396.7
Tomatoes	381.1	545.8	489.5	451.9	380.4
Citrus Fruits	1,022.2	1,269.5	1,032.2	1,024.7	920.1
Flowers and blossoms	93.7	99.4	104.5	108.2	109.9
Textiles and Clothing	5,250.6	5,966.6	6,133.3	6,266.4	6,096.3

First, I would like to thank AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI for taking this initiative, which is considered a contribution to the preparation of an important report on Morocco's relations with the EC. It is an initiative that will undoubtedly have a significant impact on Morocco's economy in the future.

I would first like to provide some figures regarding textiles and ready-to-wear clothing to show how influential that sector is on the fabric of the economy in Morocco. These figures would enable us to appreciate in particular the impact that relations between Morocco and Europe have in that regard.

The textiles sector in Morocco is one whose history in the country goes back a long time. Its activities got started in 1973 with the enactment of investment laws and export laws. It is these laws that gave this sector the impetus and the drive it has today. At the present time, the textiles sector employs approximately 180,000 persons or what amounts to 40 percent of all jobs available in Morocco's industrial sector. The textiles sector exports 50 percent of its products and invests what amounts to 20 percent of Morocco's current investments in the country's conversion industries.

There were indications that the momentum of the development that this sector went through late in 1985 and 1986 would continue to be very strong. And yet, that momentum started to slow down somewhat with the onset of the Gulf war, which had a major impact on that momentum. Suffice it to mention, by way of illustrating this point, that all 1990 investment programs amounted to approximately 3 billion dirhams. In 1993-94, however, investments dropped to 1.7 billion dirhams. The Gulf war also had an effect on the consumer market where consumption of textile goods slowed down worldwide, in general, and in Europe, in particular. As we shall see, 80 percent of our exports are consumed in Europe.

Also, the fact that Morocco's textile exports declined for the first time in 1994 is not to be ignored. Since our exports had always risen between 15 and 20 percent, a decline in exports is something that we have not been accustomed to. In 1994, however, exports did decline by 6 percent, and such a decline is a grave development for us in the textiles sector. It is a development whose implications have to be taken into consideration with regard to the future.

Despite the fact that our exports declined in 1994, there was a relative change this year in what we call "the way business is done." This is an indicator that holds out the promise of something new, namely, that several companies that had abandoned us when the doors to trade with Eastern Europe were opened, started doing business with Morocco once again because they did not get what they had hoped to get by trading with Eastern Europe (quality problems and late delivery dates, etc.). This is something that must be taken into consideration and properly utilized in the future.

As I said previously, 80 percent of Morocco's textile exports go to Europe. This is a vital matter, which means that Morocco is the sixth largest exporter to Europe. It may even be said that it is the fifth largest exporter to Europe since Morocco's exports to Europe are at par with those of Indonesia. China, which is the largest exporter to Europe, is followed by India, which holds second place, and then by Hong Kong. As you see, these countries are Asian countries. Indonesia is starting to take on a new field, and it is going through tremendous development in this regard. Morocco's exports to Europe represent less than 4 percent of the textiles and ready-to-wear clothing that are imported by Europe. These figures do not pertain to goods that are produced in Europe and exported by one European country to another.

This 4 percent figure, which may seem small, is one that can be developed and made to grow if the facilities were available to us and if some of the resolutions, which would help us develop this sector, were to be made.

The second factor here [has to do with the following questions]: Does Europe, as a textile producer, have a negative view of this sector? Is the textiles sector viewed as an industrial one that should be abandoned because it no longer means much for Europe? The answer [to these questions] is that Europe, in general, sees the textiles sector and the ready-to-wear clothing industry as vital for the future. This is something that must be taken into account in every action that is taken by Morocco. After all, the textiles sector represents 10 percent of the labor force employed in Europe's industrial sector, and Europe is serious about doing everything it can to maintain that employment ratio and perhaps make it grow. Several meetings were held recently in Europe, particularly in France and Italy, to study the subject of stimulating the textiles and ready-to-wear clothing industries in Europe. This effort is based on vital elements, foremost among which is the strong technology that Europe has. That technology would not be allowed to deteriorate. Second, Europe has a strong reputation worldwide as a force for innovation and creativity, the main ingredients for development in the future. Europe is getting ready to develop its textiles sector based on these two ingredients.

Another element behind the European countries' growing interest in the textiles sector lies in the capabilities Europe expects to acquire as a result of the anticipated General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. GATT, which is expected to open the doors to trade worldwide, will break down all restrictions and barriers to worldwide trade and will enable Europe to go into large markets, such as those in China and India as well as those in Asia, in general. In this regard European studies affirm that Asia represents an important market for Europe in the future and that the purchasing power in Asia will be the same as that in Europe. Europe, then, is using all these elements as the basis for rebuilding its strategy and its textiles policy. Until a short time ago, it was believed that Europe would abandon that sector.

Moreover, Europe (France, in particular) represents 25 percent of investments in Morocco's clothing and textiles sector. This means that the ties we have with Europe in this regard are strong and historical. It also means that we have to concentrate on those ties so we can benefit from those actions that are being taken now in Europe. We can thus benefit from those markets that are being looked at by Europe in a new light, and we can [also] utilize our relationship with Europe, which can be developed, to open new markets.

If, therefore, this complimentary relationship were to be examined, we would find that it is complimentary only in part, since 75 percent of all textiles exported to Europe are textiles imported from Europe [as published]. Such a relationship is seen as vital and strong because it keeps us totally connected to Europe and provides a broader range for openness in the future.

Let us go back to an important point, namely, the GATT problem and the openness of the markets. I would say that the privileges that we had in Europe will fade away in a matter of 10 years.

If we were to take all these elements and factors into consideration, we would have to be realistic and say that the future of this sector, if we were to take our exports to Europe into consideration, would involve the 90,000 workers in the labor force who are engaged in jobs generating exports to Europe. We would have to be realistic if we wanted to hold on to the employment opportunities (about 180,000), which are made available by this sector.

To us in the textiles sector, finding solutions with Europe is a matter that is vital and crucial. Our hope is not to waste more time studying this matter and looking for solutions. After all, other countries did move faster than we did. Turkey, for example, opened the door and made much progress in its development. Tunisia recently signed a partnership agreement with Europe. Time has no mercy. Naturally we have our own special positions regarding the market in Europe. We have strong privileges that must be utilized in coming up with a new view. We believe that none of these actions can yield the results that are being sought without shoring up European investment in Morocco in the area of textiles and ready-to-wear clothing. Such investment would take the form of partnerships or any other form. In the future, European interests in our country must be greater because such interests would be the only incentive that Europe would have to look at us in an inclusive manner in this regard. Europe's interests in Morocco must be strong. Otherwise, relations with Europe will deteriorate, and we might see the flight of European investments and interests from Morocco to other countries that would be waiting for nothing else but that.

These are some thoughts on our view of relations with Europe in the area of textiles and ready-to-wear clothing.

[Signed] Muhammad Lehlu, president of the Moroccan Association for Textiles and the Clothing Industry

Sudan

Reportage Continues on Tensions With Egypt

Envoy Seeks Syrian Mediation

JN0807180095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Manama today Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa denied the existence of any mediation between Cairo and Khartoum, noting that the situation between the two countries does not need any mediation if intentions are honest and if the policies that worry and disturb many African, Arab, and Islamic countries come to an end.

Arab diplomatic sources told our correspondent in Damascus that the visit to the Syrian capital by Sudanese Minister of State Mahdi Ibrahim Muhammad, who was received by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, aims at launching a Syrian mediation between Egypt and Sudan.

Egyptian Report Said 'Contrived'

EA1007190095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo television and radio on 9 July broadcast a contrived report about the administrative attache at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo. The Egyptian authorities claimed that parcels [word indistinct] addressed to the embassy's administrative attache had been seized at Cairo Airport. The report said the parcels contained telecommunication sets and equipment to be used for terrorist purposes. The Egyptian authorities went further in their contrived report saying that a [Sudanese] representative was present when the parcels were opened.

The Sudanese Embassy in Cairo has categorically denied the existence of such parcels addressed to the Sudanese Embassy, as claimed by the Egyptian authorities. It also strongly denied the presence of any embassy representative when the parcels were opened.

In Khartoum, a political source described the Egyptian contrived report as untrue and naive, saying it was typical Egyptian behavior to falsely accuse anyone with views different from theirs. The source added that the Egyptian authorities were trying hard and by all means to contrive marginal battles to divert attention from the shattering defeat they suffered after the emergence of facts disproving the false accusations made by the president of the Egyptian regime that Sudan had planned the recent attempt to assassinate him in Addis Ababa.

Islamic Figure on Egyptian 'Claims'

NC1007202895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim al-Sanusi, assistant secretary general of the Arab-Islamic popular conference in Sudan, by 'Isam Hasan "on the latest U.S. maneuvers"; date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Hasan] Maneuvers have been conducted in the Red Sea and near Hala'ib. Being involved in Sudanese affairs, would you inform us of your view of this exercise?

[Al-Sanusi] First of all, these maneuvers were planned in advance and are part of the efforts to scare Sudan. They are being carried out by arrogant colonialist states that seek to terrorize the Muslims. But our response to them is that we are now mobilizing our country and preparing our youths for popular defense.

God willing, you will soon hear that tens of thousands have enrolled in popular defense in readiness for any possible task. Above all this, in defending our faith, nation, and country, we rely not on the quantity of weapons but on the grace of Almighty God. He defends us and our country. [passage omitted]

[Hasan] There are also Egyptian claims about the seizure of a shipment which, according to their claim, contained equipment and documents consigned to Egyptian Islamists in Sudan. What is your response to these allegations?

[Al-Sanusi] I do not think that the listeners throughout the whole world have ever heard such unprecedented lies and allegations, not only from the mass media, but also from a head of state who daily lies and makes claims that are refuted by other media. What you just said falls within these claims. If this happened at Cairo airport, everything could be arranged at Cairo airport and then revealed.

Secondly, if we are helping the Islamists, Could there not be routes other than Cairo airport? Thirdly, speaking about assistance to the Islamists, we are in a position to condemn the Egyptian authorities' killings. But we have not provided them with material or other support because we have enough problems in our own country resulting from plots hatched against us. Actually, these are all false claims. Perhaps all the Egyptians now—I do not mean all Egyptians, but the Egyptian media and political leadership—have become accustomed to lies. This is known to everyone and refuted, as I said, by the media. These are trivial issues to which we do not respond at all.

However, we will continue to pray for the Islamists or Muslims and definitely support them politically as long as they are in this position of defending themselves and retaliating for the daily executions ordered by military courts. These acts of murder take place day and night inside and outside the homes, on the streets and everywhere, so they are defending themselves. As for us, at the moment we have nothing to do with their claims.

Foreign Minister on Visa Restrictions

NC1007185695 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Report by Hasan Zaytuni in Khartoum]

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to the measures the Egyptian Government has taken requiring entry visas for Sudanese nationals who wish to enter Egyptian territories, Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha said in an exclusive interview with MBC today that these measures do not serve the strong historic relations linking the two people and countries.

[Begin Taha recording] The Egyptian authorities have set up obstructive administrative measures to prevent the flow of people between the two parts of the Nile Valley and obstruct the movement of history. These measures deal a very strong blow to the roots of the sincere relations between the two people. [end recording]

Regarding Syrian mediation between Cairo and Khartoum, the foreign minister confirmed to us that Syria's role, under the leadership of its President al-Asad, is an honest and sincere effort whose objective is to bridge the gap and prevent an escalation of the situation between brothers.

We also learned from the foreign minister that officials from the Sudanese presidency will arrive in the next few days in the Gulf region to explain to all the Gulf Cooperation Council members Khartoum's stance on the crisis with Cairo and to open a new chapter of relations between Sudan and the Gulf countries.

More Egyptians Reportedly Arrested

NC1007204095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1950 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 10 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities have stepped up their oppressive practices against Egyptians working in Sudan. This evening they arrested two Egyptians working in the Khartoum branch of the Egyptian Reinforced Concrete Works Company, Mahmud al-Rashidi and Sayyid Khalid 'Abd-al-Jawad.

The Sudanese authorities ordered that their passports be readied together with two air tickets. They also asked that a third worker, Kamal Shibl Abu-al-'Azm, be handed over together with his passport and an air ticket.

With this arbitrary measure, the number of detained Egyptians from among the company workers has reached seven. Engineer 'Ali al- Sayyid 'Abd-al-Latif, the branch manager in Khartoum; engineers Ahmad Hamid 'Abd-al-Mu'ti, Midhat Sadiq 'Atiyah, and Ayman Ahmad Fu'ad; and store keeper Faruq Taha Mubarak had been detained earlier.

The security authorities have actually received the passports and airline tickets of the five.

Work on the project, which is being done jointly by the company and the Sudanese Real Estate Bank to build housing units, stopped completely after the arrest of the company's engineers and manager.

Al-Turabi on 'Resurgence of Islamic Energy'

MS1107085695 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 11 Jul 95 p 5

[Report on interview with Mr. Hassan Turabi, of National Islamic Front, by James Whittington: "Sudan's Spiritual Mentor Thrives on Criticism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum — Mr Hassan Turabi, the spiritual and political mentor of the Sudanese military regime, is unperturbed by the country's image abroad as a pariah state which disregards human rights and is closely associated with militant Islamic groups. He also feigns indifference to increasingly sour relations with its neighbours: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda and, recently, Egypt.

Instead, he appears to be enjoying the fruits of a 30-year struggle to impose a puritanical version of Islam on a traditionally diverse and easy-going Sudanese society. He talks brightly of a period of Islamic renaissance and seems actually to enjoy standing up to his critics — whom he is convinced are all linked to an American-led conspiracy against him and his religious beliefs.

"Without a challenge we wouldn't move. If there is a strong challenge, the response is strong. History moves that way," chuckles the London University and Sorbonne-educated lawyer in his Khartoum office.

The spacious but modest headquarters of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference — a body he created to disseminate Islamic values beyond Sudan — is a far cry from the impressive presidential palace of General Omar Bashir, who came to power in 1989 following a military coup.

Although Mr Turabi has no official position in government, observers liken him to a Machiavellian prince who has packed the political, academic, trade union, judiciary, and military establishments with his followers. He has either jailed or silenced most of his opponents at home.

Mr Donald Petterson, U.S. ambassador in Khartoum, describes him openly as "the de facto leader of Sudan". While his party, the National Islamic Front, is technically banned — like all political parties — it is generally considered to be the party of government.

Mr Turabi comes across as a sprightly, urbane and slightly eccentric 63-year-old. He dismisses talk of his political power and influence as grossly exaggerated.

But his strong beliefs and publicly stated agenda have rattled too many governments, from Cairo to Washington, for an international change of heart to be likely.

He says he would like to be remembered as someone who contributed to the worldwide "resurgence of Islamic energy". "Peacefully, through evolution, is my preference, but if you are blocked completely, whether it's the west or the government on top... then through Jihad. Just fight it out."

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, who survived an assassination attempt in Ethiopia last month, has blamed Sudan and Mr Turabi, whom he accused of being involved in the attack. The incident has brought a sharp deterioration in relations between the two countries and has led to a military stand-off over the disputed border area of Hala'ib. The Shaykh describes the accusations as a "symptom of a state of shock".

To discuss terrorism with Mr Turabi is to play with semantics. He has close links with the Lebanese Hisbollah, Palestinian Hamas and Algerian FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], all of which have associated militant units accused of terrorism. But he will not admit to dealing with Egypt's militants, Gama'a al Islamiya, who claimed responsibility for the Ethiopian attack, even though he supports their campaign to overthrow Mr Mubarak.

Finding out exactly what relationship Sudan's Islamist military regime has with such groups is difficult. The U.S. ambassador says information at the State Department which put Sudan on its list of states alleged to sponsor international terrorism in 1993 — is so sensitive it cannot be released. Other diplomats and observers say support for these groups comes more from the provision of training facilities and a safe haven than active sponsorship of terrorist acts abroad, although they are unable to be specific.

One government policy for which Mr Turabi is keen to claim credit is the re-organisation of Sudan into 26 federal states, each with a nominally elected parliament. "We are democratising society from below and ultimately we won't have a military or one-party government," he says.

In the long term, Mr Turabi believes that his ambitions will succeed simply because both Allah and history are on his side. It is this single-mindedness which makes his neighbours so nervous.

Al-Bashir Praises Government's Achievements

EA0807172895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Speech by President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir marking the opening of the first phase of the

Omdurman-Dunqulah road at Abu-Dulu on 8 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, the Lord of all creation, and salutations, and peace be upon the best of messengers, our master Muhammad, his family, and companions. God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all: Praise be to God that we meet here this morning, in the heart of the desert, to ask the world to bear witness to the fact that we are overcoming difficulties, and that we can register achievements. This comes at a time when defeats and setbacks prevail among all the people of the Third World's, who expect help from aid and supply organizations, but do not receive it until their dignity is trodden under foot.

We in Sudan have refused to sell our honor for aid, assistance, and loans [crowd shouts: "God is Great," "There is no God but Allah"]. At a time when everyone has prostrated themselves and bent their heads with humiliation and broken spirits before today's rulers of the world — the Americans and Zionists — we in Sudan raise our heads high. We only bow our heads five times a day — before God the almighty and praiseworthy.

We could never prostrate ourselves or bow down, except before God almighty. The world around us wonders: How can Sudan raise its voice against the new injustice and tyranny? How can Sudan challenge the new international order? It does not just raise its voice, but follows its words with actions. We have carried out many projects: Ten roads constructed at the same time, with our machinery, young people, and funds from our own pockets. [passage omitted]

We have decided to set up projects using joint efforts: The people's efforts and the government's efforts. We have tied the government's effort to the popular effort. The committee in charge of this road must work hard and gather funds and resources to encourage the government to subsidize the road.

If you want to speed up the building of this road, you must double your funds and efforts, so that the government can double its subsidy for this road [passage omitted].

We shall build a homeland which will be an example to all the nations around us, which stand with their heads bowed as they implement the colonialists' designs to destroy their nations and weaken them for the sake of a handful of dollars coming from the United States. Those who are awaiting U.S. support can never be anything except agents of the United States. This is our message. This is our call today, the same call we made in the towns and [word indistinct]. We make this call from the heart of this desert, and these grains of sands shall bear witness on judgement day, God willing. We shall never accept the denigration of our religion. We shall never neglect (?our country), no matter how they gather around us. Let them come to us and we shall bury them in the sands of this desert, God willing. God is great, honor to Sudan. God's peace, salutation, and blessings be upon you.

Human Rights Committee Briefs al-Bashir

EA0907170595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, was briefed this morning on the activities of the human rights committee of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] and the extension of the committee's work to various states of Sudan. During a meeting, at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, with Mr. Angelo Beda, deputy speaker of the TNA and chairman of its human rights committee.

Mr. Beda said Sudan observed all human rights, affirming the firmness of this principle, which is protected by the tolerant shari'ah, prevailing laws and the upright Sudanese character. Angelo Beda denied accusations of human rights violation from some quarters biased against Sudan. He referred to the good relations linking the Sudanese parliament to parliaments of the world, particularly the European, African, Pacific, and Caribbean parliaments. His Excellency stressed Sudan's effective role in defending the rights of oppressed peoples and calling on the great powers to create a just economic order and equal rights without political pressures for the sake of promoting the progress of these states [as heard] and cooperation with them.

Vice President Supports 'Peace From Within' Strategy

EA0807154495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, supports the idea of peace from within, aimed at creating a suitable climate for an atmosphere of peace, so that the country becomes attractive to returnees and those wanting a normal life.

In an interview with the Sudan news agency on the sixth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution, Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr said the idea of peace from within aimed to establish camps and peace villages for returnees so that they turned into messengers for peace. He added that peace from within aimed to achieve direct contacts with the rebels in the areas affected by the war, and to come to an understanding with them without the meditation of rebels in hotels. [sentence as heard]

He said there was a clear need for this strategy, in order to attract returnees from within Sudan, and to awaken a desire in many rebels outside Sudan to return.

Faction Condemns Conference Held in Asmara

EA0707213195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The dissolved Democratic Unionist Party faction of Sharif al-Hindi issued a statement yesterday condemning the recommendations issued by the conference of so-called National Democratic Alliance in Eritrea.

The statement said that the conference recommendation on self- determination to south Sudan and the so-called marginalized areas aims at division of Sudan. The dissolved party's faction criticized the signing of some of the alliance elements to what they refused in the past, accusing these elements of working for their interest. The statement underlined that outlaws' movement, led by John Garang, was now the sole representative of south Sudan.

Khartoum State Camps Ready for Military Training

EA0807202495 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 8 July (SUNA) — The department of popular defense in Khartoum state has made preparations and set up programs to train citizens in open camps. Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah 'Umar al-Sharif, commander of the Popular Defense Force in Khartoum state, said preparations for training programs in the city's various districts had been completed.

He said (?the first) batch graduated as part of the celebrations of the sixth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution, under the auspices of the governor of the state of Khartoum. He pointed out that the training was military, religious, and spiritual. He appealed to everybody to take part in this patriotic activity.

Agreement Between Opposition Leaders Signed

95AF0098A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 May 95 pp 30-31

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum — The Khartoum regime was struck with astonishment and bewilderment when it heard the news about the Lafon Declaration, which was signed by Colonel John Garang on behalf of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] and William Nun [as published], chief of staff of the South Sudanese Independence Movement [SSIM]. The statement announced the reunification of the movement, effective last week. It was called the Lafon Declaration in honor of the military operation led by officers of the SPLM and the SSIM in Lafon against government forces on 31 March 1995. Two government army officers and 96 soldiers, on an official mission in the southern jungle, were captured during this operation.

Some observers thought that the Lafon Declaration was a positive step to end the hostile operations between the two parties. They said that common interest and the need to achieve peace have united the movement, paving the way for it to regain its strength and fortitude.

It is known that a split took place in the SPLM on 28 August 1991 that led to Riak Machar and Lam Akol breaking away from the movement and establishing what was then called the al-Nasir Group. Most of the members of this group came from the tribes of al-Shalak, al-Nuwayr, and other al-Istiwa'iyah Province tribes. The split took place because Garang and his Denka tribe were unilaterally making the decisions and occupying the senior positions in the armed movement.

A prominent Sudanese opposition leader in Cairo said the decision of the two movements to coordinate their efforts and end the conflict between them, which had caused many victims among southerners, will enable the united SPLM to regain many of the victories it lost to the government forces and revamp its foreign relations.

Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi [leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front] refused to meet with Garang in Nairobi on 1 April because, he said, he had no official status to meet with the leader of the SPLM. He did not know that by refusing to meet with him he was promoting the reconciliation negotiations and unity between the two factions.

A veteran Sudanese diplomat pointed out to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that Dr. al-Turabi's refusal to meet with Garang made the southern factions realize that Khartoum did not expect any peace agreement to take place between the opposition armed factions in the south. This was clear when they foiled the meeting initiated by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, while on an African tour to limit the spread of the Guinean worm and valley fever. Many Sudanese pinned their hopes on this meeting to end the war that has been going on in southern Sudan for the past 13 years, since the rebellion in the south broke out in March 1982.

The veteran diplomat said that this meeting could have brought together two of the biggest heads in the Sudanese crisis. They could have discussed all the concerns of the wounded homeland and the roots of the Sudanese crisis, which have been the principal point of disagreement between the two sides in the Nairobi, Abuja, and Addis Ababa meetings.

The diplomat, who declined to reveal his name, added that the meeting of leaders in any crisis can always be useful, no matter whether one side wins or loses. Because of their responsibility and authority, they can make concessions to facilitate the negotiations and reach agreement, which, when signed, becomes binding on all parties.

However, the failure of the meeting, the veteran diplomat continued, made it clear to the two opposition factions in the south that Khartoum was waiting for the summer season to launch its military offensive against the last border positions still being held by Garang's forces in the Sharq al-Istiwa'iyah Province and by Riak Machar's forces on the Ethiopian border in southwest Sudan. It is known that the Sudanese regime has scored big gains following the split in the opposition armed movement about three years ago. It regained more than 10 towns from the SPLM. It also gained by causing a rift between the two factions, which led to a costly conflict between them.

The veteran diplomat added that many rumors were spread about the policies of the SPLM, which was established about three years ago. Some people said that Riak Machar and Lam Akol's meeting with Khartoum's negotiating official 'Ali al-Hajj in Munich signaled to the southern leaders to establish this splinter organization to help Khartoum in its attempts to suppress the SPLM. This was part of a big financial deal and promises of senior government posts when peace is established in the south and the last soldier of Garang's forces is expelled outside Sudanese territory.

However, the Sudanese diplomat said that they did not fulfill their promises. The breakaway movement found itself engaged in an armed conflict over the past three years with the mother movement, without any help from the Khartoum regime, apart from some inexperienced members of the popular defense forces. The breakaway faction also faced further division that eventually led Lam Akol to split ranks and establish a new organization, said to have been at Khartoum's instigation also.

All these reasons and the repeated sorties by government Antonov aircraft against the villages and camps of the SSIM, despite a cease-fire brokered by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, may have led the SSIM to conclude the Lafon agreement.

Khartoum also unknowingly helped in the Lafon agreement. It forced Riak Machar to send his Chief of Staff William Nun to sign the Lafon agreement after government forces launched six attacks on areas held by his forces during the cease-fire. The commander of the SSIM said more than once last month that the regime's forces have attacked Wat [as published], the administrative headquarters of his group in A'ali al-Nil Province, more than once. He then said that his forces have repulsed government attack against Lafon, about 120 km east of Juba. The SSIM also accused government forces of violating the cease-fire and attacking Wat, Malwal, and Loronyo, in the eastern al-Istiwa'iyah Province, but the SSIM sources said that the John Garang movement has violated the agreement only once.

The veteran diplomat said that the accusations made by the SSIM confirm beyond any doubt that the Al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime's acceptance of former U.S. President Carter's mediation for a two-month cease-fire in the south was just an attempt to gain time to launch further raids against the two factions. This was clear in their concentration on areas in the Sharq al-Istiwa'iyah Province in an attempt to capture Wat, Malwal, and Loronyo, three areas controlled by Riak Machar's forces. The intensive shelling of Lafon took place only after pro-Khartoum elements reported that a reconciliation meeting is being arranged between Garang and William Nun. Lafon is a small town still being held by Garang's forces, despite the Khartoum regime's intensive attacks.

Regarding the military situation in the south, the diplomat said: It is no secret that the two factions of the SPLM have failed to stop supplies from reaching the government forces. They cannot do it now because government forces possess a large number of armored vehicles, large quantities of ammunition, and several Antonov warplanes to protect infantry forces trying to reach the Kenyan border.

Therefore, it was necessary for the two factions to end their division and reunite to prepare for the decisive summer, as the regime's press called it, instead of fighting and killing each other.

The statement issued following their agreement made this clear. The statement provided for the establishment of a special committee to study the military ranks and deal with any contradiction that might develop because of the difference in ranks in the two movements. This was a reference to one of the most important reasons that caused their split in the past. The statement also proposed forming a committee of seven members, three from each faction and a chairman acceptable to them, to provide solutions to tribal conflicts in some areas through dialogue and contacts with the various parties. The statement ended by appealing to the international community to pressure the Sudanese president to respect the cease-fire to enable Carter to fulfill his mission.

Riak Machar, who authorized William Nun to sign the agreement on his behalf, stated at a news conference in Nairobi that the SSIM and the SPLM led by John Garang have agreed to end the fighting and establish a permanent cease-fire between them.

The sources added that Machar has not met with leaders of the SPLM. He was trying to make the media believe that he sent William Nun to meet with John Garang.

The sources said that Machar has not been in Sudan for more than a year and has not met with his followers or tried to unite their ranks. The sources added that Machar's continued absence in Europe and Nairobi was among the reasons that led Lam Akol, his partner in the leadership of the SSIM, to break away recently.

However, military sources think William Nun signed the declaration in his capacity as the chief of staff of the al-Nasir Group and not as commander of the united SPLM. He and his forces joined the SSIM last December. The outcome of this declaration will become clear when Khartoum launches its usual summer offensive.

The veteran diplomat thought that the gains made by John Garang's SPLM appear, to observers of Sudanese affairs, more significant than depicted by the official and Western media. This is although the SPLM has lost many strategic positions and some towns it held in the past 12 years. The SPLM, however, is regarded as the only faction of the opposition national grouping that was able to use languages of fighting and diplomacy at the same time.

The SPLM maintains high-level representation in some African states and Europe. Its west European office, under Edward Lino, played an important and effective role in explaining the nature of the war in southern Sudan to the Western media. Its Middle East office, under Daniel Kodi played a similar role in explaining the Sudanese issue to the leaders of the Mediterranean countries.

Still, the SPLM's greatest gain, in the veteran diplomat's view, was its ability to increase the isolation of the Khartoum regime. This led to the deterioration of Khartoum's relations with its African neighbors Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Uganda.

The most significant achievement of the southern opposition movement's diplomacy has recently been its penetration into Ugandan Government institutions. Many observers think that Garang has gained much from his friendly relations with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Their friendship goes back to when they were university students in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. He appointed many SPLM members in the Ugandan Government.

Some sources have revealed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI the reasons for the failure of the Tripoli Declaration, which Sudanese Vice President al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih and Ugandan Deputy Prime Minister Eriya Kategaya signed last month under the auspices of Abu-Bakr Yunis, member of the Libyan historic leadership. The declaration called on the two parties not to use force against each other and to resort to usual peaceful means to resolve their disputes through dialogue and negotiations.

The sources said that some activists of the SPLM, employed by Museveni's government in the administration, the army, and the police, have made their way to higher positions in the government. They are members of al-Istiwa'iyah tribes who hail from northern Uganda. They were strongly represented in the peace negotiations with the Khartoum regime. When they saw that an agreement had been reached, they torpedoed it within 72 hours, causing the two countries to break off diplomatic relations and making the possibility of a military solution a distinct option.

Rebel Group Denies Signing Peace Accord With Khartoum

AB1007175495 Paris AFP in English
1728 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, July 10 (AFP) — The rebel South Sudan Independence Movement-Army (SSIM/A) has denied allegations by Khartoum that its forces and 15 allied tribes agreed to put down their weapons and turn over an area in southern Sudan to the government.

Khartoum claimed on Saturday [8 July] that its officials had signed a peace agreement with General John Jok, head of the Riak Machar's SSIM/A faction, and 15 tribal heads from the Fanjak area in Jonglei province, located 800 kilometres (480 miles) south of Khartoum. The agreement, part of the government's "peace from within" campaign, placed Fanjak under government administration and laid down a programme for rebuilding education, health and agriculture in the region, the SUNA statement had said.

But in a statement issued here on Monday, SSIM/A spokesman David de Chand described the claim by Khartoum through the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) as "a false story".

"Commander John Jok Ruac was captured at his home by National Islamic Front (NIF) militia based in Fam (New Fangak) while he was on leave and we wonder what sort of a peace deal could be made with a prisoner of war," the SSIM/A statement said.

The statement recalled that its forces had captured more than 70 NIF soldiers, including battalion commander Colonel Khalid Mohammed Osman in Lafon on March 31 this year, "but the SSIM/A cannot think of striking a peace deal with such prisoners of war, as this would be no peace but a joke."

"The SUNA statement is a clear indication that the NIF is panicking because of its complicity in the assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on June 27 aas opposition forces are closing in on the NIF regime," the rebel statement said.

According to SSIM/A statement, Fangak region has been the scene of many battles since February between SSIA forces and those of Khartoum and allied militias despite an ongoing ceasefire brokered by former US President Jimmy to enable his Global 2000 Center to carry out an eradication campaign against Guinea worms and river blindness.

The ceasefire is due to expire at the end of July this year.

Minister Talks With U.S. IGADD Delegate

EA0907172095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the minister at the Federal Rule Office, has briefed Mr. David Shinn, the official responsible for East Africa in the American State Department and America's delegate to the Group of Friends of the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development], on the achievements of the federal system. This took place when His Excellency met Mr. David Shinn, who is currently visiting the country, in his office at the Friendship Hall yesterday.

During the meeting, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj briefed the American official on the recent state council elections, the magnitude of their contribution toward handing over power to the masses, and their role in achieving stability and peace, particularly in war-hit areas in the south of the country. The peace march was also discussed, with Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj assuring the American official [word indistinct] of the government's commitment to the ceasefire out of its belief in the importance of reaching satisfactory solutions through negotiations under the aegis of the IGADD states.

Iraq's Jasim Concludes Visit, Leaves for Sanaa

JN0807203395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, President Saddam Husayn's envoy and minister of labor and social affairs, left Khartoum for Sanaa this evening at the end of a five-day visit to Sudan. During the visit, Latif Nusayyif Jasim conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Sudanese President Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir. The message deals with the latest developments in Iraq's relationship with the Security Council, particularly regarding the need to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 which calls for lifting the siege on Iraq now that it has fulfilled its commitments toward the international resolutions imposed on Iraq.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Khartoum, Latif Nusayyif Jasim expressed his satisfaction with the results of the visit. He said that the Sudanese president has shown deep and clear understanding of the cause of Iraq and voiced solidarity with its people and support for its people and their just cause through continuing the call for lifting the siege at the international, Arab, and Islamic quarters.

Tunisia

Ben Ali, French President Discuss Relations

LD0807134295 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning had a telephone conversation with French President Jacques Chirac.

The presidency's official spokesman indicated that the two presidents examined the excellent relations between the two countries and the means for boosting them.

The two presidents also discussed the forthcoming state visit by the French president to Tunis later this summer. The French president expressed his feelings of friendship and appreciation toward our country and reiterated his eagerness to meet its president and people, the spokesman added.

The spokesman said, furthermore, that the two presidents dealt with regional and international issues of common interests.

Ben Ali, South African Vice President Meet

LD0707181495 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Relations between Tunisia and the Republic of South Africa, and the prospects of strengthening cooperation and consultations with this friendly country, formed the core of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's reception of Mr. Frederik Willem de Klerk, vice president of the Republic of South Africa, at Carthage Palace this afternoon.

The official spokesman of the presidency said that His Excellency the president gave a warm welcome to Frederik de Klerk and renewed his appreciation for his historic stance in dealing wisely and with far-sightedness with the international changes, a matter which achieved a turning point in South Africa's approach toward harmony and national reconciliation, and returned this country to the international fold.

The official spokesman added that Ben Ali stressed the importance Tunisia attaches to consolidating cooperation with the Republic of South Africa, and the role the two countries could play in the northern and southern part of the continent in strengthening joint African action and contributing to cementing the bonds of rapprochement and contact between African peoples in the service of their causes, and for the benefit of the whole continent.

Mr. de Klerk made a statement after the meeting. He said that his talks with his excellency the president were very constructive and fruitful, dealing with bilateral relations and the challenges facing the African continent. He added that the meeting also enabled them to deal with the issue of cooperation between African countries within the framework of regional groupings, particularly between the Arab Maghreb Union and the southern African countries, in addition to the peace process in the Middle East.

Mr. de Klerk pointed out that his talks with the head of state concentrated particularly on bilateral relations. He said in this respect that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to South Africa enabled both sides to lay down firm bases for bilateral cooperation and provided a strong push to relations between the two countries. He added that the visits of senior South African officials to Tunisia that followed that visit strengthened the feeling of the need to speed up the cementing of relations and the consolidation of bilateral cooperation. In this respect, he stressed that there are numerous opportunities for expanding and diversifying the spheres of trade exchanges and pushing consultation in connection with issues of common concern in the service of the Tunisian and South African peoples.

His Excellency the president honored Mr. de Klerk by decorating him with the highest order of the medal of the republic.

De Klerk Concludes Visit

LD0707222195 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Willem de Klerk, vice president of the Republic of South Africa, praised the views expressed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on ways of dealing with the problems on the African Continent and the solutions required to be found for them. Concerning the peace process in the Middle East, he said that Tunisia has played a very constructive role in it. Mr. de Klerk made these statements at the news conference he held this evening in the Damart suburb of Tunis at the end of his two-day official visit to Tunisia. [passage omitted] Mr. de Klerk left Tunisia this evening after a two-day official visit to the Republic of Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir on Power Change; Arab, Israeli, U.S. Ties

NC1007183795 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 1, 15

[Report on interview with Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani by Talal Salman in Doha on 5 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salman] The man is the same man, standing tall as he is, and wearing a smile that removes from his kind face the mask of the official image. The office is the same office, on the second floor of the Amiri Court. And the welcome is as warm as usual. The heir apparent has become the amir of the country, but he begins in an apologetic tone:

[Hamad] By God, we did not want the transfer of power to be done the way it was. But things reached such a point where we had to move. For the past three years, Qatar had been suffering a near total paralysis that severely harmed its people and its reputation. Flattery and attempts to avoid hurting the feelings of others have frequently caused problems and harmed the reputation of the country. There were objections to inviting some guests, or even to receiving them when they come to our country. We avoided inviting some friends or some senior officials of a friendly country so as not to embarrass them and ourselves. The latest example was Iranian Majles Speaker Shaykh Nateq Nuri; he is a guest at the head-of-state level. He was supposed to visit us in April, but to avoid embarrassment, we apologized to him and asked that the visit be postponed. The same thing happened with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri.

[Salman] Nothing changed outside, nothing changed inside.

I asked the new amir: And the family? Was there a unanimous decision?

[Hamad] Praise be to God, there was no problem. Everyone lived through the crisis, and although no one was happy with such a scenario, they all understand that we had no other choice.

[Salman] At a news conference a short time before my meeting with the amir, the foreign minister, who is accused of being shrewd and who speaks unconventional language and moves outside the closed cycle of traditional policies, explained the situation and defined the general framework of the policy of the "new era". But I wanted to scrutinize the magnitude of the change. The amir said:

[Hamad] What Shyakh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani [the foreign minister] tried to emphasize is continuity. We did not make a jump in vacuum or stage a coup in the usual sense of the word. We were suffering from a state of paralysis that obstructed the decisionmaking and almost portrayed the country as having two heads, two decisions, and two policies. What we did is assert the unity of the authority and the unity of its decisions so as to accomplish what we must accomplish for the Qatari people, and to enable Qatar to play its role without hindrance.

[Salman] You clearly sought to reassure Saudi Arabia, and you showed remarkable flattery in this respect. The foreign minister described King Fahd as "the father of the Gulf family".

Abu-Mish'al, as his brothers and close friends call him, commented:

[Hamad] We hope to have good relations with all our brothers, especially Saudi Arabia. We sought and we will seek to explain our positions to them so that we can lay the foundations for a relationship of brotherhood and mutual respect. This applies to all countries, particularly to Bahrain. And we are eager to maintain our good relations with all other neighboring states, from Iraq, to Yemen, to Iran. We have struck a new balance to expand Qatar's margin of political movement, and we do not intend to lose it.

[Salman] Now that you have assumed power, what are your priorities?

[Hamad] My greatest concern is to accelerate the pace of development, promote education, and take a qualitative step there. It is the Qataris' right to expect us to make every possible effort to build a modern state, small but developed and close to entering the new age.

[Salman] It was noticed that the first decisions after the change focussed on economic affairs, such as the establishment of the stock market, real estate companies, and so on.

[Hamad] Perhaps we were too late in this. Anyway, other decisions with a positive influence on the economic situation will be made in a few days.

[Salman] What about an heir apparent? Journalists from a certain country asked many questions about this.

[Hamad] We are engaged in a comprehensive reorganization of the government establishment, and we have no problem in this regard.

[Salman] What about Israel? The relationship with Israel will remain a black spot. It is not easy to justify this relationship, especially its quick pace while Arab blood is still being shed as a result of Israeli aggression and while the war of negotiations is continuing on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Shaykh Hamad Bin- Khalifah said:

[Hamad] I explained this to you earlier. Nevertheless I repeat that we had no choice but the road we took. The siege against us was getting tighter, and there were frequent threats. We approached Iran, and we moved toward Iraq in search of a balance that would protect our small state, but we had to have the United States open the door to us...

[Salman] And the United States told you that Israel is the door?

[Hamad] You can conclude this. Immediately after contacts [with Israel], Washington's doors were opened to us, and we were offered moral privileges that we did not ask for. In some of President Clinton's speeches, of all the Gulf states he mentioned only Qatar by name. And the Americans lead us to feel that they are willing to have excellent relations with us.

Foreign Minister on 'Internal' Change, Policy

NC1107101495 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 Jul 95 p 1, 17

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani by unidentified correspondent in Doha; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani was asked: The U.S. statement welcoming the change in Qatar said guarantees were given regarding Qatar's foreign policy on Iran and Iraq. We would like you to explain this and whether it is true. The foreign minister said: The step taken in Qatar is internal and concerns the State of Qatar and the ruling clan. It took place without foreign interference. Qatar has given no guarantees to any party. We are not obliged to give pledges to any country on any issue. He noted that Qatar's ties with the United States are excellent and distinguished. We discuss numerous issues with the United States, including the issues of Iran and Iraq. Our views are clear and declared: We sympathize with the Iraqi people in their ordeal and are committed, with the world and the United Nations, to the UN resolutions. Iraq must implement all the UN resolutions. This is where we stop regarding Iraq.

The foreign minister added: Our relations with Iraq are normal and do not conflict with the will of the international community. He said there is a feeling of sympathy between the Qatari and Iraqi peoples, because the Iraqi people are Arab and we must help them out of their predicament. Our relations with Iran are old, historical, and neighborly. We in Qatar always seek to promote these ties while remembering that each country is sovereign over its territory and international borders. We refuse interference in the domestic affairs of any of the regional countries. But we need not give pledges about anything. With the United States we constantly consider regional developments and discuss Iran and Iraq. The Americans know our views in this regard.

Asked another question, the foreign minister said: Regarding the return home of Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, it will be an honor to have him in his country. He has special status for us and every citizen in Qatar. As you may know, Prince Shaykh Hamad was clear on this issue. Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad's status in our hearts will not change. He is respected and appreciated; he helped develop Qatar at one time. But we cannot explain the circumstances that forced us to take this step beyond what the Qatari amir said in his speech. Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ham Al Thani's return will be an honor for us, something normal. Qatar welcomes him anytime and welcomes him among his people and kin.

Asked another question, the foreign minister stressed that Qatar's policy is sober, not wily. Regarding our ties with the Gulf countries, no matter what differences may arise among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries, we want to remain in this Council. Regarding our differences with Bahrain, the issue is with the International Court of Justice and will remain there until a solution is found. He added: As for our ties with Saudi Arabia, they are historical and old. These relations might sometimes be marred by reproof, which is normal between brothers and friends. But we always seriously seek to promote these ties and to have special relations with Saudi Arabia. The Qatari amir mentioned this during his telephone call to the custodian of the two holy mosques and during the visit of Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif. He stressed that Qatar seeks to develop these ties and that if there is any misunderstanding it will be settled in a fraternal way. He expressed his belief that the wisdom of King Khalid and his brothers will play a great role in overcoming any obstacles.

Regarding relations with Israel, the foreign minister noted that there is currently no more than dialogue between the two countries. He said this dialogue is necessary to understand the thinking of our enemy for over 50 years. It is also necessary to see how things are going in view of the peace process in the region. Our relations and dialogue with the Israelis are not official and not aimed at particular goals, in line with Qatar's firm policy.

Asked about reports of an impending cabinet reshuffle and about appointing his heir apparent, the foreign minister said the Qatari amir is evaluating the performance of the current government and will make the appropriate decision at the proper time in light of this evaluation.

He added: As for appointing the heir apparent, legislation will be issued soon defining the line of succession in Qatar. This legislation will be annexed to the Constitution so that this issue will not be misinterpreted. We want to have complete stability regarding the regime, the handling of such issues, and the system of government.

Regarding his recent visits to Egypt and Syria, the foreign minister said the two visits were clear. President Mubarak blessed the step in his contacts with the Qatari amir and President Hafiz al-Asad handed me a message of blessing for the amir. What happened in Qatar was an internal affair, he said, adding that we do not wait for recognition from anyone. This step concerns the State of Qatar. We visited them because they are members of the Damascus Declaration countries and to explain the developments and implications of events in Qatar.

Regarding the border problem with Saudi Arabia, he expressed optimism that it will be solved soon, adding that the dispute is not one that would lead to any rupture, but is just a disagreement among brothers. He added: I expect the solution to be quick, because it is the intention of the leaders of both countries to develop relations and clear up any blemishes.

Asked about the export of Qatari gas to Israel, he said moves are proceeding steadily, to transport gas to Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority via ships. As for Egypt and the Suez Canal, we have not thought of building a pipeline to transport gas through Ashqelon. He stressed Qatar's backing for the Suez Canal. He added: If gas is to be exported to Europe, it will be done via the Suez Canal. But this is still under study and will be announced eventually.

Asked about the issue of the heir apparent, he said that historically in Qatar the father chooses his son as his heir apparent and, accordingly, his highness the amir is looking into the issue.

Concerning foreign policy, he said our foreign policy is clear and firm and there will be no change unless we find that we have made mistakes in our assessment. In such cases we will not be ashamed to change things or rectify them. He stressed that this policy is transitory and depends on strategic interests.

Asked about the pledge of allegiance given by some symbols of the ruling family, such as Shaykh Khalid Bin-Hamad, Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Hamad, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Khalifah, to Shaykh Hamad Bin- Khalifah, something that raised speculation about differences within the ruling family, Shaykh Bin-Jabr said: Allegiance is obtained by majority and consensus among the ruling family, and this has been done in an unprecedented manner. As for those who did not come forward to pay allegiance at the beginning, I believe that some psychological factors may be behind it, because some brothers see Shaykh Khalifah as a brother for them.

Regarding elections, the Qatari foreign minister said: Qatar is a small country in the GCC; we always look forward to developing participation in the decisionmaking process. This is the policy of the amir. But such things must be done gradually. He added: We cannot just jump into the unknown. He said the region's countries suffered poverty and illiteracy after World War II. He expressed his belief that big leaps in this regard are not feasible, noting that Qatar enjoys more democracy than other countries.

He was then asked about expectations that a decree will be issued appointing Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani as heir apparent, that the amir is now reviewing constitutional legislation, and whether the process will end with that. The Qatari foreign minister said: Regarding the heir apparent, the amir is studying this issue. He pointed out that the father normally chooses the son to be the heir apparent and that Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah, all his brothers, and the ruling family approve of this step. This is clear to Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah, who supports this idea, he added.

Regarding Qatar's relations with Iran and Iraq as a GCC member, he stressed that Qatar stood against Iraq when it occupied Kuwait, which was unacceptable and considered as an attack against us. We do not believe in the use of force between any two Arab states. But following the liberation of Kuwait and in view of the cracks the war left in inter-Arab relations, we must heal our wounds. He noted that the Arab states are now holding negotiations with Israel after 50 years of enmity. He emphasized that the crisis of the occupation of Kuwait was a mistake that ought not to be repeated. But, he added, we must not let Iraq step into the unknown, we must not let its territorial integrity be divided or its people starve or be humiliated as a member of the Arab nation. He stressed the importance of Iraq in maintaining a balance of power in the region.

On ties with Iran, he pointed out that, historically, Qatar has had no problem with Iran. On this premise, we always develop our relations with it in a way that does not harm us, them, or anyone else. He stressed that this relationship does not constitute any sort of alliance against anybody.

On the islands disputed by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran, he pointed out that the UAE is a GCC member and Iran is a neighbor. He expressed his belief that this dispute should be resolved through dialogue or international arbitration.

He reiterated Qatar's adherence to the Damascus Declaration under the umbrella of the Arab League. He added: Qatar is considering the possibility of referring all the proposals we have reached within the Damascus Declaration to the Arab League to present them to our brothers to develop the Arab League Charter and inter-Arab cooperation in general.

He stressed that cooperating with Israel depends on steps on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He added: We were clear with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and other Israeli officials that cooperation must come in return for positive steps toward peace with Syria and Lebanon. Stressing that this Qatari stance will not change, he added: We are studying the form dealings will take once this hurdle is overcome.

Asked about the settlement process in the region and the resistance in south Lebanon, the Qatari foreign minister said resistance operations are legitimate for any people whose land is usurped. This is a principle we can neither reject nor fault. But we must assess the damage that will come from the reaction, noting the considerable damage suffered by Lebanon because of this occupation.

Amir Reshuffles Cabinet, Makes Appointments

Appoints Himself Prime Minister

JN1107070195 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0535 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Amiri Order No. 4 of 1995 reshuffling Cabinet; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] We, Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of Qatar,

Taking cognizance of the amended provisional basic law, particularly Articles 23, 29, and 31; of Law No. 5 of 1970 specifying the powers of ministers and defining the jurisdiction of ministries and the other government agencies and the laws amending that Law; and of Amiri Order No. 1 of 1992 reshuffling the Cabinet, we decree the following:

1. The Council of Ministers shall be reshuffled under our chairmanship as follows:

—We will hold the post of defense minister and commander in chief of the Armed Forces,
—His Highness Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy prime minister and interior minister,
—His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Suhaym Al Thani, minister of state at the Amiri Court,
—His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, minister of foreign affairs,
—His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance, economy, and trade,
—His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Sayf Al Thani, minister of state,
—His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani, minister of state for defense affairs, Council of Ministers member, and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces,
—His Excellency Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalid Al Thani, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs,
—His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Hamad Al Thani, minister of municipal affairs and agriculture,
—His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalid Al Thani, minister of state for Cabinet affairs and Council of Ministers member,
—His Excellency 'Abdallah Salih al-Mani', minister of communications and transportation,
—His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah Turki, minister of education,
—His Excellency Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali al-Subay'i, minister of electricity and water,
—His Excellency 'Abdallah Hamad al-'Atiyah, minister of energy and industry,
—His Excellency Dr. Hamad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kuwari, minister of information and culture,
—His Excellency 'Ali Sa'id al-Khayarin, minister of public health,
—His Excellency Dr. Najib Muhammad al-Nu'aymi, minister of justice,
—His Excellency Ahmad 'Abdallah Al Mahmud, minister of state for foreign affairs

2. Amiri Order No. 1 of 1992 and the Amiri orders and decrees amending and supplementing it have become null and void. Also, any decision that contravenes the provisions of this order shall become null and void.

3. This amiri order goes into effect as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar

Appoints Director of Amir's Office

JN1107072195 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of Qatar, today issued Amiri Order No. 3 of 1995 appointing His Excellency 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah al-'Atiyah as director of his highness the amir's office with the rank of a minister. This amiri order renders null and void any other decision that contravenes its provisions. It goes into effect as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Appoints New Intelligence Director

JN1107073595 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of Qatar, has issued Amiri Decree No. 4 of 1995 appointing His Excellency Shaykh Hasan Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Al Thani as director of the General Intelligence Service with the rank of minister. This decree goes into effect as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issues Line of Succession Decree

JN1107084595 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Amiri Order No. 4 of 1995 concerning the succession to power in the State of Qatar; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] We, Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar,

Taking cognizance of the amended provisional basic law concerning the form of rule in Qatar, particularly Article 21, and of Qatari amir's Decision No. 3 of 1995 amending certain clauses in the aforementioned amended provisional basic law, and in accordance with the state's higher interest, we decree:

Article One: That the rule in the state of Qatar is hereditary in the Al Thani family. It moves from the father to one of his sons. If the amir has no sons, the rule shall be transmitted to a person from the Al Thani family chosen by the amir. The heir apparent shall be appointed in the manner stipulated in Article 21 of the amended provisional basic law concerning the form of Government in the State of Qatar. He shall be addressed as His Highness the Heir Apparent.

Article Two: The heir apparent must be rational and of legal age.

Article Three: If the heir apparent loses any of the conditions which he must enjoy, or loses the health ability to exercise his powers, or if the state's higher interests require, another heir apparent shall be designated in accordance with what is stipulated in Article 21 of the aforementioned amended provisional basic law.

Article Four: This decree shall go into effect as of the date of its issuance. It shall be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar

Government 'Extremely' Regrets Ciller's Statements

JN1007184595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1803 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Iraq has extremely regretted Tansu Ciller's statements on Turkey's resolve to maintain its forces in northern Iraq until the situation stabilizes there.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency that Mrs. Ciller's statements can only be interpreted as a persistence in violating Iraq's sovereignty.

The Turkish prime minister said in a news conference in Tashkent yesterday that her country's forces will continue their intervention in the Iraqi territory to maintain calm there.

The spokesman stressed that Iraq strongly protests the Turkish invasion of Iraqi territory, saying that this invasion violates the principles of international law, good-neighborly relations, the UN Charter, and the border treaty signed between the two countries in 1920.

The spokesman again refuted the Turkish statements about the issue of a political vacuum in northern Iraq. He said that the vacuum is the outcome of the U.S. plot to which Turkey has contributed through its willingness to receive the U.S.-British Hammer Force on its territory to maintain the abnormal situation in northern Iraq.

The Iraqi spokesman denounced the U.S. justifications for the fresh Turkish military invasion of Iraqi territory. He said that yesterday's statements by U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns clearly indicate the extent of the U.S. departure from international laws and norms and the persistent U.S. effort to perpetuate instability in that region.

Iraq once again demands that the Turkish Government withdraws its invading forces from its territory and stops repeating such hostile acts, which, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, are not in line with the Turkish officials' declared interest in the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of Iraqi territory and in noninterference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

Iran Warned Against Repeating 'Aggression'

JN1007190895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1831 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Iraq has warned the Iranian Government against the gravity of repeating yesterday's aggression against Iraqi national soil.

In two letters to the UN Security Council president and the UN secretary general, the Iraqi Government stressed Iraq's legitimate right to take all action it deems appropriate to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of its airspace, territory, and waters, and to defend its people's security according to the provisions of the UN Charter.

Iraq reserved its right to full compensation for the losses resulting from the Iranian aggression according to international law. Iraq asked the UN Security Council president and the UN secretary general to intervene according to their responsibilities under the UN Charter to ensure the nonrecurrence of such unjustified acts so that security and stability can prevail in the region.

The two letters, which Iraq asked to be distributed as UN Security Council documents, note that elements from the Iranian Guards infiltrated into Iraqi territory at 0415 [0015 GMT] yesterday, Sunday, and attacked a civilian Iraqi site, 100 km north of Baghdad. The two letters say that the Iranian infiltrators fired five 107-mm Katyusha rockets at the civilian site, causing damages to civilian property.

Iranian Resistance Official on Attack by 'Agents'

JN1007150295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Statement by Dr. Zahedi, secretary general of the National Council of Iranian Resistance, on 10 July; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Agents of the Khomeyni regime fired RPG-7 rockets at an Iranian resistance group in the Army Canal area in Baghdad at approximately 0800 today. Three resistance members were martyred in the operation. They are: Ibrahim Salimi, Sayid Husayn Salili, and Bayar 'Ali Jartabar. Following that, there was an exchange of fire between resistance members and the attackers. Resistance members captured a Corona automobile and an RPG-7 launcher belonging to the attackers. Two Iranians were arrested.

This terrorist group came from Iran itself and the operation was masterminded by the highest authorities in Tehran. Al-Quds Forces belonging to the mullah's regime in Tehran executed this operation in coordination with the regime's embassy in Baghdad. This operation comes following an attack with rocket launchers staged by Tehran's agents yesterday against Ashraf Camp of the Iranian National Resistance near the Iranian-Iraqi borders.

Iran Radio on MKO Shooting, Rocket Attack

LD1007205195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the outlaw organization MKO which is siding with Iraq as the hypocritic organization, have been gunned down by unidentified men in Baghdad.

According to AFP, the three MKO members were shot while arriving in a car in the Iraqi capital city.

Elsewhere Iraq's Muslim Mojahedin have contacted the Iranian News Agency bureau in Beirut saying they claim responsibility for yesterday's rocket attack on the main MKO stronghold some 100 km north of Baghdad.

Meanwhile the Iraqi Dulaym tribe has, in a message addressed to the leader of the anti-Iran grouplet MKO, warned that the exiled faction's interference in Iraq's internal affairs could culminate in serious backlashes and attacks on the MKO by the bereaved families of all Iraqi martyrs and the families of those in prison.

Commentary on Saddam's Threats Against Israel

95AE0037A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 17

[Editorial by Kamiran Qurrah Daghi: "Is It a New Catastrophe"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Five years ago, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn threatened that he was going to burn half of Israel with "binary chemical weapons." The threat was made at the end of April 1990, specifically. At the time, many in the region and the West were perplexed as to how to interpret that threat and, generally, considered it some sort of a rhetorical exaggeration for which the Iraqi president is well known.

What happened afterward is that Saddam escalated the confrontation against "imperialism and Zionism." When the Arab summit was held in Baghdad the following month, Saddam delivered to it a fiery speech in which he threatened "reaction" with ruin and destruction if he was not given the billions of dollars he had demanded. It is well known that later developments led to Kuwait's invasion in an insane act whose high price Iraq and all the region's states continue to pay to this day.

Today, precisely five years since, an observer is tempted to compare Iraq's current conditions with its conditions at the same time in 1990. One can add by remembering that Baghdad launched at the beginning of October [1994] a violent campaign against "imperialism and Zionism." That campaign culminated with threats by Saddam that he was going to open the "world's storehouses" to rescue Iraqis from the UN blockade and with threats from 'Udayy in BABIL that every Iraqi was a "transcontinental missile" capable of reaching any part of the world. It is well known that that campaign culminated at the end of the same month with a military campaign in which Iraq amassed forces on the border with Kuwait.

Two days ago, Saddam, through his son 'Udayy who writes in BABIL editorials that are published under the pseudonym of Abu-Sarhan and that reflect the father's ideas and opinions, threatened Israel with a threat that is much stronger than the one he made against it five years ago. This time, Saddam will not be content with burning half of Israel. Rather, he is making preparations, "generation after generation," to burn down Israel in its entirety and to kill its entire population, "one after the other," because it is not enough to dump the Jews in the sea "considering that those who can swim may survive."

Everybody knows, of course, that the Iraqi president always uses "imperialism, Zionism, and reaction" as a cover to commit aggression against others. He did it in 1980 when he launched war against Iran because the "path to Jerusalem passes through Tehran." But, in August 1990, Saddam changed his mind and decided that this path went through Kuwait. At different times in the 1970's, he aspired to Amman at one time and Damascus at another as his path to Jerusalem. Perhaps it is permissible to assume that the path to Jerusalem will pass this time through Irbil, for example!

What is interesting is that Saddam's latest threat was preceded by Iraqi leadership meetings that were headed by Saddam. He devoted the last one of those meetings to review the Iraqi Air Force's capabilities. This development has occurred as a result of a an inflexible position taken toward the Security Council and Rolfe Ekeus, the council representative assigned to eliminate mass destruction weapons from Iraq. This inflexibility has been reflected in Baghdad's refusal to cooperate practically with Ekeus' committee and to supply this committee with any new information, even though Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had promised the Russians and the French, announcing this promise explicitly, that his government would supply all required information.

Some people attribute the threat to wipe out Israel altogether to Saddam Husayn's angry reaction to a statement by Shimon Peres who has said that Israel has no problem with the Iraqi people but rather with one person, namely Saddam Husayn.

This is a naive interpretation. It is always required to remind us that, whenever Saddam experienced desperate conditions in the past, those conditions always led to adventures that produced nothing but tragedies and catastrophes. There is no doubt that Saddam is in a desperate state now, despite all the assurances cited by many who say that he will continue to be strong as long as he remains in power and that this dictates that the world community lift its hand from his regime.

It is catastrophic to exclude the possibility that Saddam's new threats could lead to a new catastrophe.

Article: 'Udayy Leads Saddam's Commandos

95AE0046A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Jun 95 pp 18-19

[Article by Fawzi al-Bandari: "Details of Cold Meeting Between Saddam Husayn and al-Dulaym Shaykhs; True Story of al-Anbar Rebellion as Recounted by Escapees From Inferno; 'Udayy Personally Led Campaign by Saddam's Commandos To Discipline Rebels; Saddam Received Tribe Notables, Reviled Them, and Then Promised To Release Detained Officers; Arrival of Officers' Bodies in Coffins Ignited Rebellion in al-Ramadi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Ramadi, Iraq—In this report, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI reveals the secrets and causes of the al-Dulaym clans' rebellion in Iraq's al-Anbar Governorate, especially in the city of al-Ramadi, on 17 and 18 May 1995, keeping in mind that this city had been tranquil and peaceful and had never experienced such violent and bloody developments before. It is well known that the city of al-Ramadi is one of the main strongholds of the al-Dulaym clans who have a total of nearly 750,000 members and who live in western Iraq, in the area stretching from southern Mosul to the Iraqi-Saudi border. In addition to al-Ramadi, the province's most important towns include al-Fallujah, Hit, al-Hadithah, Kubaysah, al-Qa'im, and al-Rutbah. AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has obtained the details from survivors of the "al-Ramadi inferno."

The al-Dulaym clans have enjoyed broad influence under all successive governments that have ruled Iraq. Leaders and notables have emerged from these clans, such as Vice Air Marshal Arif Abd-al-Razzaq who held the positions of prime minister and vice president of the republic in 1965 and 1966, and Mustafa Sa'id Abd-al-Baqi, a former foreign minister who staged two abortive coups. Al-Dulaym clans are comprised of several subclans, of which the most prominent are al-Bushammar and least known are al-Bu'ulwan. These clans have played a major role in supporting President Saddam Husayn in his conflicts and his disputes with his rivals, especially since a large number of their members hold leadership positions in the army, the security and intelligence agencies, and the Republican Guard. These relations began to deteriorate in 1992 when retired Major General Abd-al-Karim al-Hamdani and 30 soldiers from the al-Dulaymi clans were arrested on the charge of planning to stage a coup. But al-Hamdani was proven innocent of this charge, which former Interior Minister Wadban Ibrahim al-Hasan tried to stick to him. Al-Hasan had a dispute with some of the people he wanted arrested over lands those people owned in the area of al-Tharthar Canal, which links the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers and which contains the best and most fertile arable lands in all of Iraq.

Planning for Massacre

The developments started on the final day of the blessed al-Adha holiday when notables and shaykhs of the al-Dulaym clans were surprised by somebody summoning them to Baghdad to meet with President Saddam so they would offer their congratulations on occasion of the holiday. The shaykh had their doubts about this late invitation, considering that it s the president's custom to set aside the entire first day of any holiday to receive party and government leaders, professional notables, shaykhs, prominent figures, relatives, and everybody wishing to meet him. This is because the president has become accustomed to spending the remaining days of the holiday in an unidentified place that is known only to the so-called "first line members," who are comprised of guards and aides headed by Major General Abd Hamid Hamud al-Tikriti, Saddam's personal secretary.

The shaykhs deliberated among themselves because being received on the final day of the holiday was an insult to them, according to clan usage and tribal traditions that have prevailed in Iraq for many years.

Hajj Awwad Bandar al-Sa'dun, al-Ramadi governor, and Brigadier General Sami al-Dujayli, also known as Abu-Qays, the city's security department chief, were able to persuade the shaykhs and notables of the need to meet the president and to convey holiday greetings to him on the final day of the holiday because he had set aside that day for them despite his many engagements and because he would be happy to meet them.

A total of 24 shaykhs representing the al-Dulaym clans' various branches and subclans, including al-Bumuhaymid, al-Bunimr, al-Bu'isa, al-Badrani, al-'Ulwani, al-Kharbit, al-'Ani, al-Rawi, al-Kubaysat, al-Kulaybi, and al-Bu'aythi subclans, got together and left the city in the morning, heading for Baghdad. The only notable to stay back was Shaykh Inad al-Ku'ud, a notable of the al-Bunimr clan and a National Assembly member who stayed behind because of his illness. It is said that he "malingered" on that day because he did not wish to meet Saddam.

In Baghdad, the delegation of shaykhs was joined by two of the al-Dulaym tribe's most prominent notables, namely Shaykh Hatim Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sulayman, the son of al-Anbar's paramount shaykh; and Dr. Abd-al-Latif Humaym, a leading Iraqi capitalist and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Iraqi Islamic Bank, which was founded by the Dulaymis four years ago with a capital of 2 billion Iraqi dinars.

Delegation members noticed that Saddam received them coolly and indifferently and that he answered their greeting with brief words. The shaykhs felt that they had been trapped. So they exchanged looks with each other and remained silent in accordance with the agreement they had had with Governor al-Sa'dun.

Starting his conversation with the shaykhs, Saddam said, "I am the only one to give weight and consideration to the al-Dulaym clans. I have bestowed my care and attention upon them and showered their members with millions and with palaces and farms."

He added sarcastically, "In the past, your dream was to have your sons work as military police under the command of the late Sa'id Sulaybi, who was a Jumayli, not a Dulaymi. The highest rank any of you attained was attained by Sa'b al- Hardan who rose to the rank of colonel or lieutenant colonel. I do not remember which. Ibn Uraym, Sa'b's colleague in the Third Division, became famous for bribe-taking and for other things that I do not wish to mention."

Saddam further added, "You know that I have not failed you. I have elevated you and given your sons the highest ranks. I pardoned Fassal al-Dulaymi and his group three years ago even though he was caught red-handed and even after they confessed that they had received money from a neighboring country. We said: Let bygones be bygones. You then came and said that Jasim al-Rikabi did not respect you and did not respond to your wishes. So we replaced him, even though I know that he is a disciplined Ba'thist and a committed struggler who is honest to his job. It was my intention to appoint one of your sons as governor. But I am aware of the sensitivities existing among you, and so I selected for you the son of a shaykh like you. So why are you being quarrelsome?" He paused for a moment and then said: "If any of you behaves querulously, I will knock off his head.!"

After a few moments of silence, Saddam turned to the al-Anbar governor and said: "Do you have anything to say?"

The governor sat erect and said: "It is a historic opportunity to meet with your excellency on this blessed day to express to you our greetings and our loyalty. Sir, these people—pointing to the shaykhs—insisted that I bring them to you to offer their obedience and to pledge to be at your disposal. They hope for forgiveness and pardon and that you will be pleased with them."

Saddam laughed, saying, "By God, son of the clan, I will turn down no request you make." The governor then went on to add, "This group appeals to you to pardon Muhammad Mazlum and three others detained with him." Saddam paused a moment and then looked at Hatim Hamdan al-Gharawi, his office chief who was sitting to his right, and said: "Fine, all right. God is generous."

Air Commodore Muhammad Mazlum and three of his colleagues were arrested at the end of last year at al-Bakr Air Base, which is close to the city of Samarra', for criticizing Saddam Husayn's policies and the actions of his eldest son, 'Udayy.

Bloody Friday

Five days after the meeting, i.e., on Friday, 18 May 1995, a number of armed military detachments arrived in the city of al-Ramadi carrying the coffins of four officers. On each coffin, the words "plotting criminal" were inscribed in prominent letters. The news spread quickly to the city inhabitants who rushed to inquire about it from the governorate one time and from the Ba'th party command branch another time. By noon, the truth had become completely evident. The four coffins contained the bodies of four officers, including Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi. The bodies were awfully disfigured. The tongues and ears had been cut off, the eyes gouged, and traces of torture were evident on the faces.

The citizens, feeling most angry, headed for the al-Rifa'i Mosque to perform their Friday prayers. Shaykh Husayn Abbush al-Badrani, leader of the al-Rifa'i order in al-Ramadi, ascended the podium and delivered a sermon in which he said: "It is proscribed to beat the dead. The disfigurement and the abuse we have seen on the bodies of these people today are proscribed. If they are real criminals, then the law and the courts should be the judge in this regard."

Before the shaykh could end his sermon, a number of congregators left the mosque and rushed to the home of Muhammad Mazlum. When people crowded before the home, four young men carried the coffin and removed its cover so people could see what was inside. One of the young men then asked: "Is this the Muhammad Mazlum that you know well? What did he do to be disfigured in this way?" People rushed to cast a glance at the body, and then weeping and lamentation ensued. Cries of anger and invocations against Saddam rose.

The wrath and the turmoil intensified even further when a shaykh made the fatwa [religious legal opinion] that Muhammad Mazlum's body should be buried without being washed by virtue of his being a martyr. Before the shaykh could end his words, a number of young men carried the coffin and rushed it in a funeral procession to the family cemetery, reiterating the slogans: "Allah is great and Him we thank. Allah is greater than the tyrants." At the cemetery, large crowds performed the prayers for the four officers whose bodies arrived at the cemetery in succession.

On the way back after the burial, voices and chants rose denouncing the criminal tyrant and imploring God to have mercy upon the martyrs. Citizen delegations and processions consisting of the martyrs' relatives began to arrive in the city, shooting their weapons into the air as a greeting and a farewell to the martyrs, which is customary among Iraq's tribes.

Meanwhile, Governor al-Sa'dun arrived in a motorcade accompanied by guards armed to the teeth with weapons and submachine guns. Using a loudspeaker, he asked the people to stop shooting. He said, "These are traitors and criminals." The martyrs' relatives responded in unison, "They are honorable men. They are in paradise..."

At that point, the governor summoned Shaykh Nasr Abd-al-Karim al-Mukhallaq, chief of the al-Bufahd subclan, to talk to him. Shaykh Nasr tried to get to the place where the governor was standing, but a group of young men surrounded him and prevented him from getting there. Shaykh Ghazi Jiyad al-Dar'amah, a leader of the al-Dulaym tribe, then came forward and entreated the governor to leave the place because people were angry and tense. But the governor turned down the entreaty and yelled in the old shaykh's face, "You have become brave now, haven't you, you Dulaymis!" Voices rose and words mingled. Two bullets were fired by one of the governor's guards toward the governor himself, dropping him to the floor. The governor's aides fled, carrying the governor while being pursued by bullets. Those paying the deceased the last honors went home after deciding that they were going to erect a condolences pavilion in an open space next to the residence of Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi.

While tents were being erected for the condolences pavilion, reports were received that a regiment from the Emergency Forces Brigade was advancing toward the city of al-Ramadi and that the governor had been immediately taken to Baghdad for treatment.

When the emergency forces arrived in the vicinity of the city, their members got into armored troop carriers, which proceeded to the city streets and quarters. Heavy firing then ensued. At that point, the citizens stayed in their houses, shutting their doors tightly. But voices using loudspeakers rose from mosques, all of them urging the citizens to confront the forces of the tyrant who bore down on the city youth brutally and who insulted its elders. A wave of determination surged among the citizens, and they hailed bullets on the emergency forces from their rooftops and windows, turning the city into a ball of fire and flames, according to those who succeeded in fleeing.

As to the site where it had been decided to set up the condolences pavilion, a fierce battle took place between the emergency forces and the city inhabitants gathered there. Half an hour later, that battle was decided in favor of the citizens, and members of the emergency forces fled, with gunfire pursuing them.

The emergency forces then withdrew from city streets and quarters and gathered in front of the governorate building to reorganize themselves and to prepare for launching another attack.

At 2000, forces of Saddam's Commandos arrived in the city under the command of 'Udayy, Saddam's eldest son. Another fierce battle ensued, and heavy artillery began to pound homes and buildings from which gunfire was opened in the direction of these forces. The forces also blew up Muhammad Mazlum's house and a number of neighboring houses. Citizens began to flee the city in their vehicles in search of safety. When the forces became aware of the fleeing vehicles, they opened heavy fire on them, hitting a pickup truck carrying an entire family on its way to al-Fallujah. All passengers were killed. They included Tha'ir Nu'man al-Kubaysi, the family head and pickup owner who was also a shop owner; his wife; and his four children.

When the forces of Saddam's Commandos gained control of the city by silencing all sources of fire, they began a large-scale campaign in which they raided homes and arrested citizens belonging to the Dulaym clans, based on their identity.

By 0600 on Saturday, the city was living in terrible silence, interrupted by nothing other than the noises of armored vehicles roaming the city streets and alleys and by the insults directed by troops at the Dulaym tribe, its members, and its shaykhs. Al-Ramadi had experienced an unprecedented night: horror everywhere, arbitrary arrests, and Saddam's Commandos roaming the streets and baring their chests conceitedly. They raided homes, slapped children, and hit women with the butts of their rifles and their automatic weapons. They smashed cars parked on streets and in front of homes. 'Udayy, Saddam's son who commanded this campaign, spent the two days following the terrible night in the city, exercising his powers as a military governor. He supervised the preparation of lists of shaykhs and notables, ordering that they be arrested and dispatched to Baghdad in iron chains.

Saddam's Envoy Returns After Visits to Sudan, Yemen

JN1007195995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1752 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy and minister of labor and social affairs, returned to Baghdad today at the conclusion of a tour which took him to Sudan and Yemen. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Calls For Overthrow of Regime

LD1107100195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0704 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 11 Jul (KUNA) — A leading Iraqi opposition figure called on the main forces in the Iraqi opposition to speed up the completion of a new military and political action to overthrow the Saddam Husayn regime.

Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, member of the regional Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Iraq, said in a statement to KUNA that conditions inside Iraq do not permit any delay in drafting such a mechanism, particularly as the conditions are ripe for a change and for the overthrow of the regime.

Al-'Ubaydi, who is also one of the leaders of the Coordinating Committee for Nationalist and Democratic Action, added that during a recent meeting here the committee stressed the importance of concerting and coordinating national efforts for the emergence of a front to deliver Iraq and the Iraqi people from the regime.

Speaking about the aims of this front and the forces from which it will be formed, Al-'Ubaydi said "among the first tasks of this front will be to initiate field action in coordination with the military and popular leaders inside Iraq which are in sympathy with the opposition forces, to overthrow the regime."

He pointed out that this front will be formed from nationalists, Islamists, democrats, and Kurds. Among its priorities is to topple the regime and set up a patriotic democratic alternative, to grant self-rule to the Iraqi Kurds, to safeguard the unity of Iraqi territory, its people, and its sovereignty, and to establish the best relations with neighboring states, brothers, and friends, and to respect regional and international institutions.

Al-'Ubaydi called on the leaders of the Iraqi opposition not engage in or be deflected by side issues which tend to hamper the drawing up of a military and political action mechanism to topple the regime because time will brook no delay.

Al-'Ubaydi also disclosed the results of his meeting here with Maj.Gen Wafiq al-Samara'i, former head of Iraqi intelligence, with whom he discussed the situation in Iraq, the prospects for the Iraqi opposition, and the need for it to unite.

In reply to a question on the fate of the Iraqi National Congress after several members withdrew from its executive committee, Al-'Ubaydi said: "As a nationalist force, we are not concerned with the Congress; we differed with its leadership over the kind of political discourse which will have to be addressed to the people and army of Iraq on ways to guarantee the rule of law."

He added: "One of the issues on which we disagree with the Congress is the national mechanism which would reassure the people and army of Iraq and its neighbors. We also disagree with the fact that the Congress relied on foreign powers and individuals and not on political currents which are an effective force in Iraq. We believe that regional and international factors could help the people of Iraq topple the regime."

He also said: "The Coordinating Committee for Nationalist and Democratic Action is committed to uniting the Iraqi opposition and toppling the regime and this has become an urgent necessity because while this regime remains [in power] the suffering of our people increases."

[Words indistinct] the recent events in Baghdad and [words indistinct] that there is a total consensus among all sections of the Iraqi people on the need to remove the fascist regime."

Al-'Ubaydi said that the broad base of the opposition within the army is expanding day by day as a result of the regime's tyranny, particularly after the events in Baghdad and al-Rumadi. He added: "The harm caused by the Iraqi regime to the people of Iraq, to the Arab nation, and to the entire region as a result of its invasion of a sister neighboring state, Kuwait, caused the resentment of most of the Iraqi people [who now believe in] the need to get rid of this regime."

In his interview with the Kuwaiti news agency, Al-'Ubaydi stressed the need for the leaders of the Iraqi opposition not to differ on superficial matters which have a subjective, sectarian, or ethnic character and to refrain from defining the form of the [new] regime in advance because this is a waste of effort and time and will enable Saddam Husayn to stay in power.

He said: "The front which we are calling for will regulate the action of the opposition before and after the overthrow of the regime and until the election of constitutional bodies which would define the form of the political system in view of the composition of Iraqi society and its many ethnic groups and sects."

On the upcoming meeting of opposition leaders in Damascus, Al-'Ubaydi said: "The Coordinating Committee for Nationalist and Democratic Action accepted the initiative of Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, to hold regular meetings with a view to uniting the Iraqi opposition. A technical committee made up of six people representing the pan-Arab, Islamic, and Kurdish tendencies has been set up to coordinate positions among these groups and draw up appropriate texts to develop the military and political action of the opposition."

Peres Rejects Australian Demand on Jerusalem

TA1107104295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 95 p A2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] A tough exchange took place yesterday in the meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, who was on his first visit here. Evans demanded that Israel back down from its positions on Jerusalem and about joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Peres categorically rejected these demands and did not respond to his counterpart's request that Israel support Australia becoming a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Evans said: "Why does Israel refuse to give the Palestinians a status in Jerusalem? How will it hurt you if another flag, the Palestinian flag, flies in the city? Why do you refuse to make even a symbolic concession?"

Peres replied: "This is totally out of the question. Jerusalem has never been an Arab capital, while the Jews have never had another capital. We have a demographic majority in the city. There is no way we are going to agree to the solution of having two capitals in Jerusalem. This has no historical or demographic justification. I am prepared to share any area with the Palestinians, except sovereignty."

The Australian minister explained that his country attaches great importance to global arms control, both because of its location in the Pacific Ocean (where numerous nuclear tests are conducted) and as a policy it wants to promote. "We take part in the multilateral talks on arms control in the Middle East, and our feeling is that they are going around in circles. The Arabs expect the Israelis to make the first step, while you wait for the Arabs. Why should you not be the first to make a concession and thus break the vicious circle? Perhaps you could start with talks by experts on ways to supervise nuclear disarmament in the region?

Peres replied: "Who do you want us to sit with?"

Evans: "With the countries taking part in the multilateral negotiations."

Peres: "But it is not with them that we have a problem, whereas with the problematic countries we cannot talk. Can you bring Iran, Iraq, and Libya to the negotiating table? Disarmament cannot be discussed before peace reigns with all the countries in the region, including Iran."

Reviewing the negotiations on the interim agreement with the Palestinians, Peres said that Israel will not compromise on its security. "We are looking for complicated and creative solutions which will enable Israel to uphold the security of its citizens and the Palestinians to hold free and democratic elections."

In recent months, Evans has been mentioned in Australia as likely to run for the job of UN secretary general. According to Australian sources, Butrus-Ghali promised to support Evans if he himself decides not to run for a second term.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday and asked him to tighten economic cooperation between the two countries. Udovenko proposed to enhance relations between the defense industries of both countries through joint projects, but Rabin said that Israel is committed to the agreements it signed with the United States and its ability to transfer U.S.-based technologies is consequently limited.

Rabin promised the Ukrainian minister that he would raise his case with the finance and the industry and trade ministers. The two countries are scheduled to sign economic cooperation agreements today. Rabin said he approved a $10-million government guarantee for foreign trade risk insurance for exports to Ukraine, but noted that there has not been much response.

Rabin To Deliver Message to Syria on Shelling

TA1107062695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. envoy Dennis Ross leaves for Damascus tomorrow with a message from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that Israel is displeased with the state of the understandings on the northern border.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said after the meeting that Syria apparently understands that time is running out for them, too, and that the process has to be speeded up. Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] U.S. envoy Dennis Ross had an intense evening in Jerusalem last night. At the prime minister's bureau, Ross conferred with Yitzhaq Rabin, Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, Military Intelligence Chief Moshe Ya'alon, and Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich. They laid out maps and discussed the locations of early warning stations, joint patrols, and the depth of the demilitarized areas. Slight optimism can definitely be gleaned from Ross' cautious diplomatic tone after the meeting. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was also optimistic.

[Peres] I think that Syria is starting to realize that time is also running out for them and that the process has to be speeded up. I hope that is what will happen.

[Hecht] Israel is not at all pleased with the deterioration in the understandings reached with Syria concerning Lebanon. Jerusalem insists that Damascus effectively rein in Hizballah and that a mechanism, such as a hot line with perhaps with an extension to Washington, be set up to resolve misunderstandings, like those that occurred this week.

[Rabinovich] The prime minister and chief of staff made it absolutely clear that katyusha shelling on Israel is banned under the understandings reached with Syria on Hizballah activity. I obviously do not want to go into detail because such a message should first be transmitted to the addressee by the authorized official, Ambassador Ross.

[Hecht] Jerusalem heard with surprise and with interest the commentary broadcast by Damascus Radio last night voicing a Syrian readiness to accept Israeli early warning stations on its territory although they would be manned by international forces.

[Peres] Each announcement has to be thoroughly studied. I usually prefer government announcements, but I presume that the radio also knows what it is talking about. Let us wait and see.

[Rabinovich] It is an interesting development which contains a much more positive flavor than what we have heard from Damascus so far.

[Hecht] One of those who participated in the meeting described the talks with the Syrians in the following way: It is like a boy and girl who have been dating almost four years since the Madrid conference. Now they are discussing important things — a financial settlement, the kids' names, the china pattern — all under the title security arrangements. They have not gone to bed together yet — the scope of the withdrawal. Anyway, their parents are opposed to the marriage, but they still continue meeting.

As the loyal representative of his President, Dennis Ross showed special interest in the planned 25 July ceremony on the White House lawn to sign the Israeli-PLO interim agreement.

[Peres] It is not impossible, and we are still making a supreme effort to conclude the work by that date.

[Hecht] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir concluded a long day of talks with Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] at about midnight. The negotiations move to Italy on Thursday, and Ross, who met the two, referred to the American dowry.

[Savir] The United States is, of course, interested in the agreement, which would be a first-rate achievement for the entire peace process. Most of the talks with the Americans were, however, devoted to economic aspects, the desire of the Americans and both sides — Israeli and Palestinian — to economically bolster the next stage of the Declaration of Principles. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Mayor: PA Leased Allenby Camp Site

TA1107103095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 95 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has signed a contract to lease the Allenby camp in west Jerusalem for 99 years. Jamil al—Tarifi signed for the PA after being given power of attorney by Yasir 'Arafat. The Allenby camp is the planned site for the new U.S. Embassy in Israel.

The PA signed the contract with Da'ud al-Fityani, head of the Waqf. It says that the PA has the right to use any means it deems necessary "political or legal, including appeals to international courts, to uphold the Waqf's right to this land." According to records, the Allenby camp previously belonged to the Waqf, and was expropriated "for the state's benefit" during the British Mandate.

Yesterday, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert disclosed on Israel Television Channel 1's Popolitika program the contract signed by the PA, as well as other documents showing, he said, increased PA activity in Jerusalem. Olmert believes that the PA will now try to torpedo the move of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

According to the mayor, the Allenby camp is registered as belonging to the Israel Land Administration, but the contract creates an opening for the PA to claim it is a party to any legal proceedings concerning the land and to try to hold up the transfer of the U.S. Embassy to west Jerusalem.

Olmert said he handed the documents to the prime minister and called on him to take immediate steps on the matter, which he called "most grave."

The contract to lease the land was signed on 12 June 1995 after al-Fityani suggested that the PA lease the land from him for 99 years in return for $99. Yasir 'Arafat himself responded to al-Fityani's letter: "To follow up and sign the agreement," he wrote. The contract gave expression to the fact that this action was being taken upon 'Arafat's instructions.

Other findings, which appear in the documents prepared by Olmert, show that the PA deposited some 60,000 dinars in a bank in Jericho for a chain of private schools in East Jerusalem via Orient House.

An association headed by Fayiz Daqqaq was set up to develop and build in the Old City in order to keep the presence of Arabs and their assets there. Orient House officials urge residents of the Old City to turn to the association, Olmert said. According to the documents in Olmert's possession, the association's funds apparently come from Saudi Arabia.

In addition, "The Palestinian Development and Investment Company" has been operating in the territories and in East Jerusalem for about a year. Olmert said it is also tied to the PA. He claims that the company operates a front company which buys assets in the city.

The chairman of the board of the investment company is Sabih al-Masri, a Nabulus resident. According to the documents presented by Olmert, the company has $1 billion in funds at its disposal.

A body called the Palestinian Housing Council, which has adopted a plan to construct housing in East Jerusalem, gives groups and individuals long-term loans at easy terms.

Netanyahu Denies Flooding Congressmen With Faxes

TA1107105895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Hillel Kuttler]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several congressional offices confirmed yesterday that they regularly receive faxes from Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, but denied that he has lobbied Congress to cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority.

The matter emerged in an Evans & Novak op-ed column in yesterday's WASHINGTON POST that claimed Netanyahu was sending "nonstop faxes" to Capitol Hill to undermine the Rabin government's peace policies.

But staffers denied yesterday they were being deluged with Netanyahu's messages.

"I get faxes from him. I don't think they're overwhelming (in number) and in fact I get information that's helpful," an aide to a Republican congressman said.

A Democratic aide said "everyone is flooding us, and it's starting to come from Labor now."

The Likud said in a statement last night that the article was written by journalists who are hostile to Israel, and is "distorted and tendentious." It said it distributes a newsletter outlining its positions, as the Labor Party did when it was in the opposition and still does now.

Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Arizona) issued a statement yesterday disputing the article's claim that he was disturbed by Netanyahu's faxes.

Restrictions Ease on Agriculture Trade With U.S.

TA1107104895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Although the issue of removing all obstacles to U.S. agricultural exports has not been resolved, Israel has agreed to ease some of the existing restrictions on agricultural trade, Industry and Trade Ministry Foreign Trade Administration director Zohar Peri said yesterday.

Peri and his American counterpart, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Tim Richards, concluded their periodic joint trade discussions under the framework of the Free Trade Area (FTA) deal between the two countries.

The major sticking point that was the focus of the discussions is the future of agricultural trade under the agreement.

The agreement, as it now stands, allows both countries to protect their agricultural sectors with non-tariff trade barriers. However, under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) regulations, all non-tariff barriers have to be converted into tariffs.

The problem is that the FTA agreement, as of this year, has eliminated all customs between the countries. The U.S. is insisting, therefore, that Israel adhere to both requirements and totally open its agricultural market to U.S. exports.

Peri said the U.S. position is untenable, since both the FTA and WTO explicitly make allowances for protecting agriculture.

He added that the issue could not be resolved during this round, since the U.S. officials did not have the authority to change their position.

As a result, the sides focused on lifting restrictions on specific agricultural products.

Peri said that in early August, discussions will continue in Washington.

Peres Apologizes for Killing of Lebanese Citizens

TA1007152795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today apologized for the killing of Lebanese citizens by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] tank fire two days ago. Peres said that in the wake of this incident and the katyusha attack the understandings with Syria and Hizballah should be reexamined. Peres was speaking after meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans. Dani Zaqen reports:

[Begin recording] [Zaqen] Hizballah's katyusha attack on northern Israel yesterday will be discussed today in the meeting the foreign minister and the prime minister will hold with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, Ambassador Rabinovich told us some time ago. This was confirmed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the end of his meeting with the Australian foreign minister. Here is what Peres said when we asked him whether the understandings with the Syrians and Hizballah after Operation Accountability should be amended.

[Peres] They should not be amended but they should be examined seeing that, as our spokesmen announced yesterday, we made an unintentional mistake when one of our cannons fired a shell at a house which was not a target and unfortunately caused fatalities. Such incidents are apparently unavoidable when there is tension. Nevertheless, we have no intention whatsoever of raising the tension or reneging on the understandings.

[Zaqen] Peres refused to answer our questions about resuming negotiations with the Palestinians and evaded a question about the accusations leveled at Ehud Baraq with regard to the IDF training accident.

Australia's involvement in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians was discussed in the meeting with Minister Evans, who conferred last night with 'Arafat. According to Evans, Australia, which participates in the multilateral committee on regional disarmament, would be glad to see Israel sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to see the Arab countries reduce and ultimately destroy their chemical arsenals.

Evans seized the opportunity of the Greenpeace ship's attempt to enter the testing site to lash out at France for its decision to pursue nuclear testing in the south Pacific. Evans termed the French Government's decision provocative, dangerous, and harmful to the environment, quality of life, and health of the inhabitants of the south Pacific. [end recording]

Northern Command Upset by Rabin's Remarks

TA1007112495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Yosi Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Officers and soldiers in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command yesterday expressed anger and resentment at what they described as "the lack of support from the chief of staff and the political echelon."

Morale was low yesterday among Israeli troops in south Lebanon and in the Northern Command. In their view, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks at the cabinet session, in which he blamed an IDF tank crew for the katyusha firing, was the last straw. "This is even worse than the traditional practice of blaming the rank and file," the soldiers said. "If God forbid, someone had been killed today, they would have blamed the tank crew that fired the shell. We cannot operate in such an atmosphere. It is inconceivable that soldiers on night activities will be frightened of being scolded for inaccurate shooting or for making the wrong identification. No one in the IDF purposely aims to hit children."

The Northern Command has several contingency plans for tougher action against Hizballah. Last night, feverish consultations on the developments of the last few days were held at Major General 'Amiram Levin's bureau. "We clearly can hurt Hizballah much more seriously than we have until now," a senior Northern Command officer told MA'ARIV. "We only have to be given the green light to act."

The same officer said that Hizballah had only been warned innumerous times by senior officers, including the chief of staff, over the past few days.

Settlers Considering 'Massive' Civil Disobedience

TA1007154995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heads of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza left today's meeting with the prime minister on the redeployment plan with a very bad feeling, as they put it. One of the participants, Council Secretary Uri Ari'el, said he felt Mr. Rabin is in a sealed room and does not understand what is going to happen in Judaea and Samaria when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] begins withdrawing from town centers.

According to Ari'el, the council will determine its steps in the wake of the meeting. The settlers have been restrained so far, he said, and this was interpreted as weakness. For the first time, Ari'el called for giving serious thought to massive civil disobedience. Pinhas Wallerstein got the impression that the prime minister is not up to date on what is taking place in the area and accepts the situation. This is reported by our correspondent Gid'on Litman.

Rabin's Office on Guaranteeing Settlers' Security

TA1007170195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Prime Minister's Office says that in his meeting with the settler leaders Rabin promised them that care was taken in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment plan to guarantee the settlers' security. The plan is aimed at guaranteeing that Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers do not encounter armed Palestinian policemen. The IDF, the Prime Minister's Office says, will do its best and utmost to guarantee the security of the Israeli residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the settlers' representatives wanted to discuss the possibility of a refusal of orders to evacuate IDF bases, but the prime minister declined a discussion on the matter, stating that it is inconceivable that any order be refused. [passage omitted]

Peres Comments on Settlers' Threats, Syrian Track

TA1107152995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that there were signs that Syria was aware that time was running out in the political process. Peres vehemently condemned the calls for civil disobedience issued by the leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and said that the government would not be cowed by threats. Our correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports on the meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in which Peres participated.

[Begin recording] [Vismonsky] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived at today's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's session and was immediately attacked, as almost always, by opposition Knesset members [MK's]. Why are you in such a hurry with the political process?, asked opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu, who hastened to provide an answer of his own.

[Netanyahu] I ask myself why is this government in such a rush to bring Syria to the shores of Lake Tiberias and move the border from the banks of the Jordan River to Kefar Saba and the banks of the Yarqon River. It is their desire to turn over these territories, the walls that protect this country, the heart of the Jewish homeland; and all this stems from one consideration only: the desire to reach agreements at any price before the next elections and the hope that the entire edifice will collapse after the elections.

[Vismonsky] Shim'on Peres replied: We are ready to make peace and there are no more excuses. He tried to explain the reason for the government's haste and said that not only Israel was pushing the process forward.

[Peres] The reason for our haste in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is the demographic clock. The reason for our haste on the Golan Heights is the fundamentalist clock. There are signs that the Syrians are starting to become aware of the time factor. Now, it is not only we who understand the importance of the time that is running out. Syria is also beginning to understand this point. This change, among other things, is also reflected in official Syrian declarations.

[Vismonsky] The foreign minister told the members of the Knesset committee that the talks between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff were successful. If Syria is indeed prepared to agree to the establishment of early warning stations, then this constitutes a more flexible position. However, Peres stressed, this agreement had still not been given official confirmation. The foreign minister also discussed the Palestinian issue and clarified that he supported leaving all the Jewish settlements in place during the interim period. Peres, however, sharply condemned the calls by settler leaders for civil insubordination.

[Peres] Woe to us if we have reached a situation where we must defend not only the country but also our democracy. Anyone calling to break the law does not belong in a law-abiding country. The law applies to everyone. No one is above the law and we will not be frightened by their threats.

[Vismonsky] Coalition Chairman Ra'anan Kohen met with the attorney general and complained that the right-wing threats constituted incitement and a call for insurrection. Binyamin Netanyahu also condemned this phenomenon and said that all steps against the government must fall within the framework of legitimate, political activities. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 11 July adds that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel had still not provided Syria with maps, given up Mount Hermon, or made any other concessions." The report notes that "the foreign minister said that he was more worried about Iraqi nuclear reactors than a possible Syrian invasion."]

Ben-Eli'ezer Cautions on Settlers Taking Up Arms

TA1107104495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 95 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Yerah Tal, and Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "I believe we are misjudging the dynamite contained in the possible reaction of the Jewish residents in the territories, even if only by a small fraction of them, when they realize that their lives are in danger," Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer stated yesterday. Speaking in two separate meetings with leading settlers and a group of officers in the reserves, Ben-Eli'ezer said one should not rule out the possibility that settlers might also take up arms.

"We should not dismiss the threatening tones coming from settler quarters. The fact that these are very polite may blur our judgment or minimize the potential danger. I believe that high explosiveness is contained in the Jewish hardcore which will feel, justly or unjustly, that they have been abandoned," he added.

The minister added: "We are still far from feeling relaxed and at ease with the security arrangements after 25 July. At this point I cannot really see an optimal formula that will safeguard the security of the Jews." [passage omitted]

Settlements Launch Campaign To Attract Residents

TA1007110795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jul 95 p 12

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the pending redeployment of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in Judaea and Samaria, or perhaps because of it, a number of settlements have recently embarked on a campaign to attract new residents.

Psagot, located a wadi away from Al-Birah/Ramallah, which is slated to be the capital of the Palestinian Authority once it is elected, distributed leaflets recently calling upon the "young in age or spirit" to join the setttlement located "15 minutes from Jerusalem."

"If you are national-religious, young in age or spirit, and want to take part in a national enterprise and be a part of a cultured, successful community, Psagot has something to offer you," the leaflets read.

Aharon Gutman, secretary of the settlement, said that by the end of the summer an additional 15 families are expected to move into the community, which now numbers about 150 families.

Currently Psagot residents drive through Al-Birah side streets to reach their homes, but this will no longer be the case with the completion of a bypass road leading to Kokhav Ya'aqov and the Alon Road, Gutman said.

Gutman said he is receiving inquiries from those looking into the settlement for purely ideological reasons, as well as those interested because of the relatively cheap housing there.

Another settlement that has embarked on a similar campaign is Revava, just east of Biddiya and Qarawat Bani-Hasan, and a few kilometeres west of Ari'el in Samaria.

'Ofer Ashwal, in charge of Revava's campaign, said the settlement of 35 families took in four new families in June.

"We are getting numerous inquiries," Ashwal said, "and if the people are not suited for us, we recommend them to other settlements."

He said the new families live in mobile homes in the settlement and have come "to show the government that we are continuing to build."

Revava is being advertised by a jingle on 'Arutz 7 [the settler radio station].

"A young, religious community is growing near Gush Dan and close to Ari'el," goes the jingle.

"Fulfill a dream now in Revava, a green, flowering community in our beloved land."

'Imanu'el, the haredi settlement located just north of Revava, is also about to start a campaign to sell 50 new apartments in the settlement, said a local council official.

He did not want to be identified.

The official said that there have been dozens of inquiries even before the campaign was formally launched.

He said that those inquiring are interested for a mix of ideological and economic reasons.

Three-room apartments will be sold for $30,000 each, more than $100,000 less than a comparable apartment in Bene Beraq, where many of the settlement's 4,000 families originated.

Water, Other Disagreements With Palestinians Noted

TA1007182895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jul 95

['Imanu'el Rosen report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a closed discussion held by the prime minister today it was decided that about

18 Palestinian police stations will be set up in the areas under IDF [Israel Defense Forces] control. Control over Rachel's and Joseph's Tombs will be transferred to the Palestinians. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen sums up preparations in Jerusalem on the eve of resuming the negotiations with the Palestinians.

[Begin Rosen recording] Except for the security issue, water is the most complex mine to defuse in the interim agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The water issue features the largest gap between the two sides' positions, larger than the gap on the security issue. The Palestinian position is that wherever they receive land they should also receive water rights. Israel's position: There will not be any redistribution of water resources and rights. In the meantime, the Palestinians today boycotted a discussion of the issue with Agriculture Ministry representatives, and this move indicates what can be expected in the negotiations which will open in Florence the day after tomorrow.

Yitzhaq Rabin today convened a series of deliberations on the issues of the negotiations, with water at their center. Israel's position will be uncompromising. Foreign Minister Peres says there is no connection between water and land: Water moves while land does not. [passage omitted]

On the security issue, too, no compromise will be made. The IDF will maintain full responsibility for the rural areas outside the towns, but there will be perks. The prime minister said in today's meeting that 18 Palestinian police stations will be set up in these areas where many thousands of Israeli vehicles also move daily.

Another disagreement emerges in the discussion over the issue of religion, with Rachel's Tomb at its center. Religious Affairs Minister Shetrit believes that Rachel's and Joseph's Tombs should remain under Israel's exclusive responsibility. Peres and Rabin say there will not be such Israeli responsibility. As with the Jericho synagogue, responsibility will be in Palestinian hands, with free access to Israelis. It should be remembered that discussion on the Cave of the Patriarchs has not begun yet. It is not certain that all these issues can be finalized and signed by 25 July. [end recording]

Agriculture Minister Opposes Water Redistribution

TA1007162595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur by Jack Katzenell; place not given — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Katzenell] One of the most complex issues to be discussed by Israel and the Palestinians is, of course, water. Just how the region's meager resources are to be divided. On the line with us now is Israel's Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur. The question I would like to put to you is how you can satisfy everyone, the Israelis and the Palestinians, without depleting the water resources for generations to come?

[Tzur] The problem of the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians cannot be how to reshare the water. We have to remember that we are really suffering from the fact that we are sitting in an Israel which suffers from a severe shortage of water, and we and the Palestinians are together on one aquifer. We think the basis for any negotiations should be not to reshare the water, but to establish a way of running the water issue together on the existing conditions of the division of the water.

[Katzenell] In other words, the status quo would apply and Israel and the Palestinians would have to agree on the redistribution of the same supplies.

[Tzur] Basically, I think that this is the situation. They have some more potential in water in the eastern aquifer, which is going down to the Jordan Valley, and also there are other opportunities for catching winter water and keeping it for summer, and also all the situation of recycling the water. We have to remember that also in Israel there is a shortage of water and every year we have to transfer about 60 million cubic meters [figure as heard] from agriculture to domestic use and together we and the Palestinians have to organize for creating new quantities of water by desalinating, by catching water, because the existing situation is of a shortage of water.

[Katzenell] Mr. Tzur, it has often been said that the next war in the Middle East — and this was before the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and the Jordanians — would be fought over the water issue, the water war. Do you think you can resolve these differences, do you think you can distribute the meager water supplies between the Israelis and the Palestinians without leaving a potential flash point for the future?

[Tzur] I do not think there is any potential for fighting for the redistribution of the water because we are not having water. In 10 years from today, also in Israel there will be no more water for agriculture because most of the water will be then from recycled water. In 10 years from today, we will start to desalinate the water, so I do not think that now it is a good task to try to fight for resharing the water. Maybe, they will raise such an issue. What we can tell them: Look, we are having now water for our people, you are having water for your people, and we have also to prepare yourselves for the growth of the population and for the growth also for the use of the quantity of water per capita. What we are saying is they are having one potentiality more in the eastern aquifer, and we have to discuss together the real question of water because I cannot see any positive result for a fight over the redistribution of water.

Cabinet Briefed on 'Arafat's 'Positive Approach'

TA0907170395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a briefing given by security elements, the cabinet was told today that while Yasir 'Arafat is haggling over the details of the agreement on the second stage of autonomy, his approach is positive. On the other hand, they noted Faysal al-Husayni's negative approach to the agreement that is being worked out.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that the coordinator of activities in the territories noted that there has been an economic improvement in Gaza. There has been a change in the way of life there, which is being expressed in the opening of coffee shops, among other things.

Ben-Eli'ezer: Agreement 'End of Era of Occupation'

TA0607170795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says Israel's agreement with the Palestinians is the end of the era of occupation. It was now up to the Palestinians to decide the nature of the lives they intend living with Israel. Ben-Eli'ezer, who was interviewed for Israel TV's Arabic Service, says there was no need to be afraid of a Palestinian state provided it existed alongside Israel in peace and security, and by the concept of coexistence. The minister added that it was inconceivable to evacuate Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev, the big suburbs near Jerusalem, or to return the Jordan Rift Valley and the Latrun road.

Interim Agreement Said Leading to Binational State

TA0607172195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 95 p B1

[Commentary by Meron Benvenisti: "Once Again a Capitulation Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Journalists who were standing near the prime minister as he was briefed on the results of the Peres-'Arafat meeting (which produced the optimistic declaration about the imminent signing of the interim agreement) heard him say: "Shim'on did not believe 'Arafat would agree." According to the HA'ARETZ correspondent, Rabin "said he was not surprised that 'Arafat accepted Israel's demands." Indeed, as things look now, the arm-twisting trick that yielded the Gaza-Jericho agreement worked once again, and Yasir 'Arafat once again bowed his head before the immeasurably stronger side.

The right wing's hue and cry about surrendering and capitulating to 'Arafat is simply absurd: An interim agreement that gives the Palestinian Authority [PA] territorial authority over 7 percent of the West Bank, puts off the transfer of territorial authority over another 40 percent to the end of 1997, and leaves over 50 percent of the area under absolute Israeli control — such an agreement does not mean capitulation by Israel but by 'Arafat. What remains of the festive declaration that the West Bank will be considered "a single territorial unit, whose integrity will be preserved during the interim period?"

It is not the right wing which should be outraged but "the peace camp." And, the embarrassment of the latter is unbearable: How can they criticize an agreement that the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people finds acceptable?

The situation in the territories was defined as "occupation" based on several premises: Control over half of the land in the West Bank, settlements in contiguous blocs, use of most of the water potential, economic exploitation, preventing development, bureaucratic terror, coercive enforcement, and a ban on political activities. None of these premises will change in the wake of the upcoming interim agreement, except the last one. All others will henceforth be controlled by Israel indirectly rather than directly; "liaison officers" will exercise their control via the PA's officials, just like in Gaza.

The most prominent change — holding general elections to the PA council — is seen as decisive by "the peace camp" and 'Arafat. It is such an important and irreversible move that all other interests should be sacrificed just to make it happen. According to the Declaration of Principles, "this is (among other things) the aim of the negotiations," since this is how "the Palestinian people may govern themselves according to democratic principles...toward the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people...."

The importance of holding elections in order to fulfill the principle of Palestinian self-determination is understandable. The practical importance that 'Arafat attaches to holding elections in "the liberated territories" that will be transferred to his administrative responsibility is also understandable. Already at this point he directly provides employment to 60,000 households. When hundreds of thousands of people in the seven liberated cities come under his responsibility this number will exceed 100,000 (policemen, clerks, and attendant workers). Of course, all this depends on whether the international community will continue to finance this inflated bureaucracy. Who will dare challenge the direct employer of one quarter of the working force in the occupied territories?

Having said that, will the elected council and its president improve their inferior status in the negotiations with the Israelis? 'Arafat will be the same after the elections and the balance of power between him and Rabin will not change. 'Arafat's eagerness to reach an interim agreement that will make a mockery of the pessimists who argued that the Gaza First agreement would be the last station and that he would forever remain the mukhtar of the Gaza Strip is understandable. However, the interim agreement was conceived in order to put off the moment of truth; that is, tackling the roots of the conflict. The moment an official seal of approval is stamped on the arrangements being discussed now, the pleasant preamble will end and the real struggle will begin. Then it will no longer be possible to justify short-term concessions as a reasonable price for achievements in the long run.

An odd affinity of views exists between Israel's right and left and among most Palestinians, to the effect that the interim agreement heralds "the end of the occupation," "the withdrawal from the territories," and "the establishment of a Palestinian state." This affinity of views stems from the misuse of terms and from wishful thinking. How does the interim agreement help solve the problem of the settlements, Jerusalem, the refugees, the use of water and land resources, economic development, and reducing intercommunal friction? Does the fact that 'Arafat "accepted Israel's demands," which made Rabin so happy, constitute a solid basis for improving relations between Israelis and Palestinians? Does this peace of winners, whose dispositions are written in hundreds of pages — from Oslo to Cairo through Washington 1995 — reflect reconciliation or lead to outrage and frustration?

Experience shows it is impossible to spoil the euphoria that grips Israelis each time our leaders manage to impose conditions — which will merely lead to a separation between the peoples — on the Palestinians and portray them as progress in the peace process. Anybody following the dynamics of the formal and practical arrangements cannot avoid reaching the conclusion that what is being established in the Land of Israel is not a Palestinian state but a binational one. The interim agreement does not define the PA's territorial authority (and we should not forget that the exact boundaries of the Jericho enclave have not been demarcated either, not to mention the boundaries of Nabulus, Janin, and all other liberated cities), but it defines the boundaries of the Palestinian collective for the purpose of elections. These include "liberated areas," "Zone B areas," and Jerusalem; namely, the West Bank and Gaza are defined in an ethnic sense but not in a geopolitical one. Israelis and Palestinians will live alongside each other in those areas and jointly (or by unilateral Israeli rule) administer all the physical and economic resources of the land.

A political scientist asked to define such a situation would not hesitate to describe it as binational, but the problem is that he is not taking part in the deliberations which focus, of course, "on security problems."

Labor To Assist Levi in Getting Prime Minister Bid

TA0707104895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 95 pA1, A10

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Labor has decided to assist in the campaign to round up the 50,000 signatures David Levi needs to present his candidacy for prime minister. The decision was made secretly in recent consultations by the Labor leadership.

Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili and his representatives verbally instructed heads of Labor branches and leading activists to covertly assist in obtaining signatures among Labor members.

Labor believes that if Levi competes for prime minister he will take away votes from Binyamin Netanyahu, therefore hopefully assuring Yitzhaq Rabin's victory in the first or second round. Labor also believes that assisting Levi could help in obtaining his cooperation to set up a coalition after the elections.

The first gathering of new converts to Levi's new party took place at Tel Aviv's Park Hotel yesterday. According to the organizers, some 400 people participated. They responded to advertisements by Levi's movement and left their names with an answering service. Mayors and local council heads also attended. [passage omitted]

The heads of Levi's movement claim that over 600 people joined up in the campaign's first week. Many expressed a readiness to work voluntarily in setting up the new party. In the first stage, which starts next week, the volunteers will be asked to participate in the operation to get the 50,000 signatures Levi needs to present his candidacy for prime minister. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti To Visit Riyadh; First Trip Since 1990

NC1007123595 Paris AFP in English
1214 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, July 10 (AFP)—Jordan's Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti is to visit Saudi Arabia on the first trip by a high-ranking official since relations soured in the 1990 Gulf crisis, a senior official said Monday [10 July].

"An invitation was sent by Riyadh to the Jordanian foreign minister, who will carry out the visit towards mid-July," the official said, asking to remain anonymous.

It is a major stepping stone in ties between Amman and Riyadh, which have still not recovered from the political fall-out of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. And it could pave the way for a meeting between Jordan's King Husayn and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, political analysts said.

Saudi Arabia accused Jordan of siding with Iraq, and in retaliation in September 1990 expelled most of the Jordanian diplomats on its territory, only allowing the ambassador and one other diplomat to remain. Three days later Amman recalled the ambassador and then sent him back in December. But he was recalled again in 1992, and today Amman only has one diplomat in the Gulf kingdom. But in November Jordan named Hani Khalifah as its new ambassador to Riyadh. Saudi Arabia recalled its ambassador to Jordan in October 1990 and has since only been represented by a charge d'affaires.

Sudanese Minister Brings Message to King Husayn

JN1007162495 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Mahdi Ibrahim, minister of state for presidential affairs in Sudan, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The Sudanese minister conveyed a written message from His Excellency President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir of Sudan to His Majesty King Husayn.

The guest minister voiced his country's appreciation for Jordan's keenness on the causes and interests of the Arab nation and for its genuine efforts to activate joint Arab action and unify the nation's stands vis-a-vis its causes and the future of its coming generations.

Talks dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries and the means of promoting them in a manner that will bring about good results for all.

The audience was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Minister of State Taha al-Habahibah; and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

Trade Cooperation Protocol Signed With Egypt

JN1007121195 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1100 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and Egypt have signed a protocol on trade cooperation. Under the memorandum, both sides will study establishing a free trade zone. They will also draw up new formulas for cooperation in the areas of trade and industry to match latest international economic developments. The draft was signed by Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib and his Egyptian counterpart Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, who arrived in the country last night.

CERM Grant Agreement Signed With U.S.

JN1007200895 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and the United States have signed an agreement granting the Kingdom an additional 7.2 million dollars for the five-year Cultural and Environmental Resources Management project, CERM. Jordan received the first grant of 7.6 million dollars in September last year. Today's agreement brings the United States' contribution to 14.8 million dollars out of a total of 16 million dollars.

The grant agreement was signed by the Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and the U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan. The U.S. ambassador said the grant will assist Jordan in the preserving of the country's archaeological sites.

Islamists Accuse Government of Anti-IAF Practice

JN1007144595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
10 Jul 95 p 12

[Report by Sa'idah Kilani, special to JORDAN TIMES]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) Sunday [9 July] criticised what it described as the government's "continuous undemocratic practices" and vowed to take a strong action if such practices continue.

Hamzah Mansur, the IAF spokesperson, told a press conference that the government's "recent practices" against Islamic candidates and supporters in Tuesday's municipal elections are "undemocratic" and said the front would take the "appropriate measures" in the future if such practices continue.

"Our supporters are receiving threats and our candidates are being harassed by policemen," said Mr. Mansur. "Our participation in the elections is going to be partial only to prove that we want to take part in the democratic process."

Mr. Mansur, a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said policemen had broken up several meetings held by Islamist candidates and ordered the dispersal of their supporters from the meeting place. He cited an incident where he attended a campaign meeting of one of the front's candidates, Muhammad al-Bannah. Policemen came in and ordered the crowd of 40 people to leave the house of Shaykh Fakhri 'Isa where the meeting took place, he said.

In another incident, Mr. Mansur said, he was addressing a crowd of 2,000 people in al-Zarqa', when the electricity went off and the meeting was forced to an end.

Also addressing Sunday's press conference, Deputy Muhammad 'Uwaydah said: "All candidates are receiving people at their residences and launching electioneering campaigns before Tuesday."

According to Dr. 'Uwaydah the IAF has sent several letters to Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Minister of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nadir al-Zuhayrat and Amman Governor Tal'at Nawaysah to protest against such practices. But they were all "in vain," he said.

"The government people are also threatening shopowners if they hang any posters or banners for Islamist candidates inside or outside their shops," Mr. 'Uwaydah claimed. "These practices are clear in al-Mafraq, al-Tafilah, and Jarash."

Dr. 'Uwaydah said that the front would take an "action" if these "malpractices and harassment" of Islamists continue.

He did not specify what kind of action will the front adopt.

"We do not resort to violence and this is definitely not our style or means," he said. "But we are fed up with memos and letters."

UNIFIL Spokesman: Israel Using Banned Weapons

NC1107052995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the peace negotiations, begins his tour of the region, Israel is escalating its acts of aggression against Lebanon. It has used internationally banned weapons, most notably nail bombs. UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] spokesman in south Lebanon, Timor Goksel, has confirmed that Israel used the bombs to bombard the town of al-Nabatiyah. He said he notified UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali of this development.

Envoy Requests Extension of UNIFIL Mandate

NC1107070995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanon has asked UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, through Samir Mubarak, the Lebanese permanent envoy to the United Nations, to renew the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] for another six months. In his request, Mubarak noted that the Israeli occupation remains the major hurdle to normalcy in Lebanon.

Hizballah Leader Comments on 'Five Key Issues'

AU1107093895 Munich FOCUS in German 10 Jul 95 p 185

[Report on interview with "Hizballah Secretary General" Hassan Nasrallah by Jaques Ungar and Wolfram Eberhardt; place and date not given: "So Long as a Single Israeli Soldier...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shiite Hizballah was founded at the time when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. In an interview with FOCUS, Nasrallah commented on five key issues of the Hizballah:

— Legitimacy: The land (Israel) belongs to the Palestinians, and no one can give it to the Israelis. Land can never belong to others as a result of occupation. Palestinians have the right to fight against the Israelis and to drive them away.

— Financing: We cannot stop cross-border money transfers to social and religious institutions, which also cover the costs of the resistance, because they are part of the religion.

— Withdrawal: I see a big opportunity that the Syrians will leave. The main problem are the Lebanese themselves. If there had been no civil war, the Syrian troops would never have come here, and there would have been no Hizballah.

— Southern Lebanese Army: In our view, General Lahad and his people must be brought to trial — according to their roles in the collaboration and the betrayal of their own country.

— Struggle: So long as a single Israeli soldier is on our soil, we will not give up our resistance.

Al-Asad, Foreign Minister Receive Dennis Ross

JN1107112995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator of the Middle East peace process, and Mark Parris, the U.S. president's special assistant and director of Near East and South Asia Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council, at the People's Palace at 1200 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador in Washington.

Newspapers View Ross' Mission

JN1107074495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's TISHRIN editorial comments on Syria's central role. It says: All world political and media quarters concerned with the situation in the Arab world constantly stress the significance of Syria's role and its growing Arab and regional political weight. This Arab and international recognition has not come out of a vacuum. Rather, it is due to the large efforts exerted by the great Syrian people and their unique leader President Hafiz al-Asad, who has provided this country with the elements of power, stability, national cohesion, pan-Arab glory, and continuous success in economic and social development.

The paper adds: Syria has now become a basic pillar in shaping the future of the region and determining the course of events in it. Syria, the paper says, has always served as a calming and balancing factor in inter-Arab relations and Arab relations with neighbors. Thanks to the Syrian initiatives, tension in Iranian-Gulf relations was eased. Syrian efforts have also contributed to sparing the Arabs another disaster between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The paper stresses that Syria's adherence to pan-Arab constants has made it the focus of attention of all Arabs, who continue to pin hopes on it. Syria has also reinforced pan-Arab orientation, as well as care for Arabism in all parts of the Arab world. TISHRIN adds that Syria has assumed a key role in the region. Consequently, it is impossible to achieve peace or ensure security and stability in isolation from Damascus, thanks to the historic leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

AL-BA'TH comments on Israel's military escalation in southern Lebanon, which coincides with the tour of the U.S. coordinator for the peace process in the region. This escalation, the paper says, has been an exposed tradition since the beginning of the peace process. Apart from flexing its muscles in front of defenseless civilians, this tradition aims at putting pressure on Lebanon and Syria to force them to submit to the demands of Israel and its concept of security and peace in the Middle East. This conduct is also meant to derail the mission of the U.S. envoy and push it into a maze.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel is mistaken if it thinks that this policy can change the situation in southern Lebanon and the region or can intimidate Lebanon and Syria and drive them to abandon their principled, firm positions. The gaps and differences between the Syrian and Israeli stands have persisted. Syria is not responsible for this. The position of Damascus is clear and open. It adheres to the resolutions of international legitimacy and removing all manifestations of occupation and aggression.

The paper points out that the complex lies in the Israeli position, which still tries to disregard facts, evade requirements, and reject an explicit commitment to the objective foundations of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Peace can be achieved within days if Israel withdraws to the 4 June 1967 lines and agrees to equitable and parallel [al-mutakafi'ah wal mutawaziyah] security arrangements.

AL-THAWRAH hopes that Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, will achieve reasonable progress in his new tour and that U.S. efforts will succeed in persuading Israel to take the road of justice and right and to comply with the major components of peace, particularly full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and achieving mutual and equitable security for all parties.

AL-THAWRAH goes on: Commitment to these components alone will remove the atmosphere of despair and frustration. This alone can also provide the objective elements that will advance the peace process.

The paper says Israel's offer of limited withdrawals from the Golan and linking this to preconditions, such as normalization, opening of borders, establishing relations, and other unfair conditions, is rejected and cannot be accepted by Syria under any circumstances. The Golan must return in full to the motherland, Syria, and the security arrangements must be equal and balanced [mutasawiyatan wa mutawazinatan]. When Israel agrees to Syria's fair and legitimate demands, then making peace will will be easy and possible.

Radio Links Visit, Israeli 'Escalation'

JN1007152195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1133 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the beginning of a new tour of the region by Dennis Ross, coordinator of the peace process, and even before he packs his bags heading for the Middle East, Israel has extensively moved its military machine in southern Lebanon with a noticeable media escalation to which politicians have contributed before the news media. We do not want to remind people of the methods of Israel which usually resorts to military and media escalation every time a U.S. official visits the region to advance the peace process or to save this process from an impasse caused by Israel's policy and its twisted methods which seek to make gains on the ground or evade the bases of a just peace. We do not want to remind people of these old methods which have continued despite all that has happened since the beginning of the peace process approximately four years ago. However, what draws our attention is that the senior Israeli officials' statements these days, and before Ross' arrival in the region, focused on two major issues: The first is the insistence on demands which were rejected by Syria because they undermine its sovereignty on its land and encroach on its dignity, such as keeping warning stations in the Golan with Israeli crews, as Israeli Prime Minister Rabin wants. The second is upgrading the talks to higher levels, according to Israeli President Ezer Weizman. It is natural for Syria to reject the presence of warning stations and Israeli soldiers and officers in the Golan, especially since such a presence means the continuation of occupation of this small part of Syrian territory. Syria does not accept this, in form and content, because it conflicts with its principles and flagrantly violates its sovereignty over its national soil.

Regarding the issue of upgrading the level of talks, we say that the problem is not in form, but in essence, and the essence, as Syria believes, is the achievement of peace regardless of the level of the negotiators, especially since that the Syrian side is authorized to discuss all that would advance the peace process toward its aspired objective. This is contrary to the Israeli side. Through the recent military talks, it has become clear that it is not authorized to make any decision.

The military talks achieved some progress on some issues. However, they did not reach the stage of drafting any clause in a practical and serious way which paves the way for security arrangements on both sides of the border in a way which guarantees the security and stability of both sides in an equal [mutasawi] and just way. When the two sides reach specific formulas for these security arrangements, there will be no need for early warning stations that maintain the occupation of part of Syrian territory. The international guarantee and peace itself remain as a certain alternative to any warning means. Even if it is necessary to have warning stations on both sides of the border, it would be possible to assign this task to international and friendly forces which guarantee the implementation of any peace agreement reached by the two sides.

In short, Israel's demands are not in harmony with any logic, with the international resolutions, or the recognized laws in the world. We do not believe that there is any state in the world which can accept continued occupation of its land or of part of this land in return for a peace that might collapse at any moment because it was not established on entrenched and strong bases.

Syria has stressed its desire for a just, comprehensive, and entrenched peace that ends the state of war and paves the way for a new stage far from violence and aggression. This kind of peace is the only one that can protect the region and safeguard its security and stability. However, security arrangements for this or that party, the early warning stations, and anything else, are incapable of protecting a lame peace or a suspicious partial deal which is concluded under imbalance between the two sides.

Syria is for peace in accordance with the bases set by the international community and the U.S. cosponsor. Just as it has responded to these bases and to the U.S. efforts, Syria is still committed to a just and comprehensive peace. It still responds to every sincere effort to achieve this objective.

London Paper on U.S. Role

MM1107104595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria: Washington Meetings Failed To Achieve Final Agreement on Security Arrangements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — On the eve of the scheduled visit to the region by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, in a fresh attempt by Washington to bridge the gap between the Syrian and Israeli views and ensure the return of the military negotiators to the next military meetings in Washington with ideas that would have a better chance of success in the negotiations which the previous meeting could not achieve, a Syrian official has reaffirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Washington meetings between the chiefs of staff of the two countries failed to achieve a final agreement on security arrangements even though the points pertaining to these arrangements were discussed frankly and in depth. The Syrian official said the two sides reached understanding on some points but remained far apart on other points, and that is why the negotiations did not achieve the results they were meant to achieve.

The proceedings showed that the Israeli side was not sufficiently prepared to cooperate in giving the peace process a boost at the required speed to produce agreement and begin discussion of the other details, whereas Syria made real and serious efforts to enhance the negotiation process.

The Syrian official accused Israel of continuing to waste time and impede the efforts made for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace, and said that the Israeli officials were still pursuing their old policy of evading the peace requirements and making illogical proposals.

The official said that Israel was still requesting normalization, security, and peace before withdrawal, matters which Syria fully rejects because it believes that any solution must be based on international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle, particularly as Syria has constant specific and relevant principles which it could never abandon, and Syria will continue to reject any incomplete solutions that do not restore rights fully to their owners. The official emphasized that Damascus will not be influenced by the contacts nor by the pressure exerted on it, especially as the Syrian leadership operates in broad daylight not in the dark or in secret corridors, and it will maintain its constant policy which has not changed for a quarter of a century.

The Syrian official said that Syria will continue to work for the fulfillment of the peace requirements and for commitment to these requirements as a main condition for the establishment of the desired peace, a fact which the United States knows well. He added that the Israeli officials should stop their policy of procrastination, beating about the bush, and raising contradictory points which they know Syria rejects and would never accept, however long it takes, because they are part of the essence of its essential inalienable principles and its right to regain its territory.

Israel's policy, he said, is rejected unless it adheres to these inalienable principles and is convinced that time is not in its favor. The Syrian official emphasized that when Syria proposed the land-for-peace formula it meant fulfillment of the principle of complete and comprehensive withdrawal to the 4 June 1964 lines because that is the pivot of the peace process. He said that Israel and all those involved in the peace process should realize that Syria's response to the mediation efforts made and to be made soon by the United States was not an indication of weakness, forfeiting of any demands, bargaining over territory or rights, or acceptance of anything less than full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon, and balanced, equal, and parallel security arrangements on both sides of the lines of withdrawal, and that any other proposal would simply block peace and the efforts made to achieve it. Syria, he said, is in no hurry and can wait until the Israelis realize that peace has become an urgent necessity which should be addressed logically and realistically, because the elements of peace will remain the same and they are known to everyone.

On the effectiveness of the U.S. role, bearing in mind that Ross is due in the region in two days time, the Syrian official said: If the Israeli position remains the same without any practical change, the chances of forward steps will be lost. The task of bringing that change about falls on the U.S. sponsor because it is the party capable of putting pressure on Israel to make it move without hesitation towards peace and the requirements of peace. The official condemned the Israeli actions in southern Lebanon and its escalation of the military situation before Ross' arrival. He accused Israel of trying to hamper the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese-Israeli tracks and put new obstacles in the way of Ross' forthcoming tour. The official warned that Israel will be held responsible for the consequences of any new failures in the peace process.

Khaddam Urges Israel To 'Contribute Its Share'

AU1007164795 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 10 Jul 95 p 118

[Interview with Vice President Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "Up the Garden Path"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] For the first time since the Arab defeat in the Six-Day War in 1967, peace between Syria and Israel seems within reach. When will it come about?

[Khaddam] It is agreeable that, after years of indifference, the world is concentrating on the serious problems that Syria and Lebanon have to settle with Israel. But you should not draw rash conclusions. More has been achieved recently than in previous years, but nothing has been agreed yet.

[DER SPIEGEL] Where is the hitch?

[Khaddam] Syria is trying to do everything possible to heal old wounds and to pacify the region beyond its borders. Yet Israel must contribute its share and specify its promises for peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] Israel's prime minister has already confronted the population with the need to withdraw from the Golan Heights. What else are you demanding?

[Khaddam] Israel would have to announce clearly that it will give us back our territory, without any conditions, within a reasonable time frame.

[DER SPIEGEL] In return for the withdrawal from the Golan, the Israelis demand real peace from Syria: including diplomatic relations and an opening of the borders for passenger and goods traffic.

[Khaddam] Why put the cart before the horse? The details can wait. Nobody can expect us to deal with economic and trade issues in this period, before we know whether we will achieve agreement on the basic issues.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you still questioning Israel's readiness for peace?

[Khaddam] So far, I have not seen conclusive evidence that Israel is serious about a just and comprehensive peace. The fuss about the release of the occupied Golan Heights, which is really a matter of course, the bloody suppression of the Palestinians, and, on top of that, the claim to Arab East Jerusalem: All this increases our skepticism.

[DER SPIEGEL] But you have already achieved a basic agreement on security issues with Israel in Washington.

[Khaddam] Everything is still very vague. One cannot speak of an agreement. I do not know how some individuals can make such daring predictions.

[DER SPIEGEL] Could Syria afford to be the only neighboring state to reject peace with Israel?

[Khaddam] We can only afford a just peace that is supported by the population. We must not sign a set of treaties that do not take into consideration our vital needs: the return of our occupied territory within the borders that existed before the war on 4 June 1967 and guarantees of safe borders.

[DER SPIEGEL] Safe borders are particularly important for Israel. So far, the Golan Heights have been a natural security zone. This protection would be lost.

[Khaddam] Geographic borders are no longer a serious security problem today. Modern weapon and defense technology largely eliminates territorial advantages.

[DER SPIEGEL] Thus, you have no understanding of Israel's fears? Syria has waged war with Israel three times.

[Khaddam] You are turning things upside down. Israel has an ultramodern army and also nuclear weapons. It is the Arabs who must worry about security guarantees.

[DER SPIEGEL] What about the attacks by the Islamic Hizballah militia on Israeli soldiers and civilians?

[Khaddam] Hizballah is operating in southern Lebanon, which is occupied by Israel. An end to the hostilities and peace will only be achieved in the entire Middle East once Israel fulfills the preconditions for real peace.

[DER SPIEGEL] Still, Egypt and Jordan have concluded separate peace agreements and PLO leader 'Arafat is currently implementing the Palestinian autonomy step by step. Why is peace so difficult for Syria?

[Khaddam] Egypt concluded a peace agreement 16 years ago. Jordan's haste in making peace with Israel is by no means justified. And the agreement of the PLO with Israel has been flawed from the beginning. The Israelis received what they wanted and the Palestinians went away empty-handed. If Israel allowed free elections in the occupied territories today, 'Arafat would be finished.

[DER SPIEGEL] Elections are scheduled to take place before the end of the year and 'Arafat hopes to emerge as the clear winner.

[Khaddam] He is being branded by Palestinians everywhere as a traitor who has sold out their interests. He led his people up the garden path in a unilateral action, instead of coordinating his plans with other Arab states. I would like to make the following very clear: All the peace agreements that Israel has so far concluded with its Arab partners become invalid if there is no peace with Syria and Lebanon.

Sudanese State Minister Leaves Damascus 10 Jul

JN1007122295 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0725 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 10 Jul (SANA) — Mahdi Ibrahim Muhammad, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, left Damascus this morning following a three-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs, and 'Uthman al-Dardiri, Sudan's ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, Mahdi said: I am pleased to have met President al-Asad. He is greatly interested in Arab developments and in the future of joint Arab action. President al-Asad also believes in the importance of clearing the air in the Arab region and achieving greater solidarity between Arab states so that the Arabs may achieve their objectives and regain their occupied territory.

Mahdi added that President Hafiz al-Asad is closely watching what is happening in Sudan. At the same time, President al-Asad is greatly concerned about the fate of the Arab-Israeli conflict in order to restore all Arab soil. This has reinforced our conviction that Syria bears the greater part of the burden in the confrontation with Israel and its attempts to deprive the Arabs of some of their rights.

Mahdi added: President Hafiz al-Asad is playing a major role in conducting the peace battle skillfully and wisely. Syria is bearing great pressure zealously and chivalrously in order to achieve an honorable peace for the Arab nation.

The Sudanese minister thanked officials in Syria for their warm welcome and hospitality. He commended Syria's great concern about the future of the nation and clearing the Arab atmosphere. He said: We are very happy for meeting President al-Asad and talking to him. We are grateful to the honorable stands we felt and we are certain that our contacts with the Arab brothers will clear the air and remove differences.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Speaks on Current Problems at Conference

LD0607074495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 5 Jul 95

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at the Joint Reconciliation Society of Afghanistan's conference on "Current Problems and Our Responsibilities" in Kabul on 5 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Peace and blessing of God be upon you, the participants of this conference.

[Words indistinct] the people and Islamic sovereignty are now faced with enormous duties and important national and Islamic responsibilities. What Afghanistan inherited from its past regimes has caused the beloved Afghanistan to remain one of the most underdeveloped and poor countries of the world despite all its potential capabilities for development and progress. [passage omitted]

As a result of the Russian invasion, the people of Afghanistan sustained enormous losses of life and material. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, a series of conspiracies, provocations, and interventions — unleashed against the Islamic State of Afghanistan because the presence of a powerful and proud Afghanistan did not suit the selfish ambition of outside societies and circles — imposed more devastation and destruction on our people and country. [passage omitted]

Esteemed audience: At this new stage where much progress has been made in restoring peace and stability in the country, it is necessary that, parallel to the intensification of the peace process, work on the country's construction and acceleration of the process of socioeconomic development should also take place. Coordinated efforts should also be made for even further consolidation of peace and understanding.

As in the past, the Islamic State of Afghanistan — which has supported every measure and action for the restoration of peace and the solution of the country's current issues by talks and understanding — in the future also, will support every effort and endeavor that takes place, keeping in mind the objective realities of our Islamic society and respecting the will and wishes of the people as a whole.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan firmly believes that the people are the most authoritative decision-making source on the future of the country and the state's leadership. Therefore, we are determined to go to the people to achieve a nationwide understanding and create a suitable atmosphere in order to resolve the country's issues. The people must be an orbit and a base for every effort. [Words indistinct] reconciliation, society has accomplished many noticeable tasks. In respecting the efforts of this society, we hope that all these efforts — which are being made earnestly, sincerely, and with sympathy —will also continue in the future. [passage omitted]

Hesitation and inflexibility is not permissible at this sensitive and historic stage. In utilizing all available means, all resources within a framework of a prearranged program should be used for the reconstruction of the country and the acceleration of economic growth and social development. Waiting to see what others are going to do for Afghanistan and its people will not produce any other result except the waste of time and opportunity. We must seriously accept the fact that only the Muslim and brave people of this country can remedy the destructions and utilize their country's vast natural resources and reserves in order to rank their country at the level of the developed countries. The Islamic State of Afghanistan believes in the ability and potential of its people, because it was the very devout and heroic people who defeated the most formidable colonial power, which had in its possession the most lethal weapons. [passage omitted]

Every government department and public welfare and social organs must try to assess the damages sustained and then start work to repair and reform the institutions by utilizing the available means. [passage omitted]

All government departments and organs of the social services are once again assigned to carry out more active work in this direction. Aiming to encourage them further, the prime minister's office is assigned to prepare the ground for a sound competition among various state organs in the area of reconstruction. The office will prepare a report at every three months on the accomplishments of various organs in this area. The report will be handed over to the office of the presidency after analysis and assessment. The intention is to create a precise government discipline.

The fighting conditions during the jihad period, efforts to create disorder and insecurity, and attempted coups during the past three years, to a certain extent, caused disorder and destroyed work discipline in departments. With the blessing of God, the situation is now quickly moving toward stability. It is necessary that past attitudes should be changed. The tasks must be discharged in accordance with the laws in force, government regulations, and the Islamic spirit, keeping in mind the needs of the present stage. [passage omitted]

In appointing personnel, the practice of keeping in mind the profession and commitment of the candidate must be the only standard, nothing else. Every other factor or dependency of any kind is inconsistent with our Islamic behavior, government's cadre policy, and interests of the heroic nation of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Praises Message From Iranian President

LD0707133495 Tehran IRNA in English 1241 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 7, IRNA — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani while lauding the message of the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on refraining from waging war, announced his government's readiness for cooperation in establishing peace and understanding in Afghanistan.

Rabbani at a dinner banquet arranged in the honour of the Iranian mission visiting Kabul, appreciated Iran's effort in stopping war and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Referring to the Iran-Afghanistan cultural bonds, Rabbani called for the further bilateral economic and cultural cooperation.

Meanwhile, the leader's representative, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi thanked Afghanistan's president for the welcome he accorded to the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution, expressing hope that peace and tranquility would return to Afghanistan at the earliest possible time so that the Afghan nation can reconstruct their country with tranquility.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran is always seeking the expansion of ties with the Islamic countries particularly with Afghanistan.

In the dinner banquet which was held in the honour of the Iranian delegation, all cabinet members of Afghanistan were present.

Saudi Arabia Proposes 'Four-Point' Peace Plan

LD0807170595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], this afternoon chaired an extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers.

The prime minister's press office told BAKHTAR that the esteemed acting prime minister first submitted to the session the ISA's peace plan on a solution to Afghanistan's issues. After discussion and some amendments the session endorsed the peace plan as a whole.

The Saudi Arabian four-point peace plan aimed at solving Afghanistan's issues was then read out and discussed. After some comments and viewpoints and careful consideration, the session asked the esteemed acting prime minister to submit the peace plan, together with the Cabinet's comments and viewpoints, to the High State Council for further consideration.

Rabbani Said Not Satisfied With Plan

LD0907175495 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 9, IRNA — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government and parties allied with him will not agree with Saudi Arabia's proposed peace plan due to its shortcomings, a high ranking Afghan official said today.

The official in an interview with IRNA here on Sunday [9 July] said that in the next few days, the Afghan Government will announce its final decision on the matter.

Over the past two days Saudi Arabia's deputy security chief, Ahmad Mohammad, met with President Rabbani and the leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Unity] party 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf in Kabul and also the leader of the Islamic National movement, General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam in Mazar-e Sharif, and elaborated on his government's plan.

Rabbani's government is opposed to the holding of sessions in Jeddah of the proposed council of representatives of all Afghan provinces under the supervision of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and believes that in view of the current state of peace and security in Kabul, the sessions of the council should be held in the Afghan capital, the official said.

The Afghan Government is also against foramtion of a supervisory council made up of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan as proposed by the peace plan.

The Afghan official added that in Saudi Arabia's peace plan there is no assurance for the fulfillment of agreements adopted by the council of states' representatives.

He termed the Saudi plan as hastily drawn and a reaction to the visit to Afghanistan of the representative of the leader of Islamic revolution, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahimi.

Rabbani Denounces Foreign Countries' Interference

BR1007123895 Paris LE MONDE in French
8 Jul 95 p 4

[Interview with President Borhanoddin Rabbani by Frederic Bobin in Kabul; date not given: "'Uzbekistan Is Sending Tanks and Hardware to our Enemies'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bobin] Sardar Abdul Wali, the son-in-law of Zaher Shah, arrived in Islamabad on 30 June at the invitation of the Pakistani Government. Everything is happening as if, in the eyes of certain people, the man who used to lead the country (1933-1973) and who is living in exile in Rome were a recourse...

[Rabbani] The invitation sent by the Pakistani Government to a special envoy of Zaher Shah raises many questions. In the current context the former king cannot play any role in helping to reestablish peace. On the contrary, and this is regrettable, it will lead to fresh confrontation.

[Bobin] How do you judge his heritage?

[Rabbani] He is the man who, in the past, allowed the reinforcement of our relations with the former Soviet Union. Through his weakness and indecision and through the little he did to promote the cause of national independence, he opened the way to the invasion of our country by the Soviets, the way to disaster.

[Bobin] Why has the United Nations failed so far?

[Rabbani] We were the first to join with the UN peace mission. However, the failure came from the United Nations itself, which has always refused to recognize the reality of interference in our affairs. Mahmoud Mestiti (a UN envoy) even contributed to the resumption of fighting by letting it be understood that whoever controlled the most provinces would benefit from it. He went as far as presenting General Dostom (chief of the Uzbek militias, former communists, from the North) as a hero. In declaring that our government was primarily Tajik, he expressed himself as one of my enemies. Yet that is a groundless accusation.

[Bobin] You often talk of interference. By whom?

[Rabbani] Everyone knows that foreign countries are providing certain opposition groups with military assistance and financial support, and that they are sending tanks, missiles, and munitions. They are forging alliance between opposing parties. Go to Hayratan, in the North of our country, and you will see tanks and hardware coming from Uzbekistan and intended for our enemies. I have already asked the United Nations to place observers along our borders — but to no avail.

[Bobin] Do you think that this interference has to do with the emergence of the Talebans ("students in religion"), who control a good part of the South?

[Rabbani] The Taleban movement came from the outside (from Pakistan — LE MONDE editor's note). Their plans were drawn up by foreigners. Their leaders are former communist officers or elements from the former communist regime. Foreign services have used them as cover. They are decidedly not students in religion!

[Bobin] Where do your relations with Pakistan stand?

[Rabbani] We want to forge good relations with that country. I am grateful to the Pakistanis for their help during the jihad (holy war) against the Soviets. Unfortunately, we cannot say that their current attitude is a reason for us to be pleased.

[Bobin] What scenario do you suggest for escaping from this impasse?

[Rabbani] We have always said that it is up to the people to choose their government. In our tradition there is a mechanism that allows for the expression of this choice: the "loya jirga," or "great assembly." Right from the start we have wanted to convene the "great assembly." And we have drawn up a plan to this effect. We are waiting for a new initiative from the United Nations, but peace will only be restored when this "great assembly" has been convened — and especially when the interference has ceased.

Rabbani Chairs Session Addressing Situation

LD0907181395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A session of the Higher State Council [HCE] of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, chaired by Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the HCE and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was held this morning at the presidential palace.

Quoting the presidential press office, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that after discussing the current situation and the steps that are currently under way in national and international level to establish peace and security in Afghanistan, the session expressed hope that the current peace efforts will be able contribute toward ending the war and removing the existing misunderstandings in our Islamic country.

The HCE members also expressed the view that as a first step, the aspiration and resolve of Afghanistan's people should be taken into consideration in any kind of efforts that are aimed at ending the war and establishing peace in our country. And the people of Afghanistan, as a determining force, should make a decision on the fate of their country.

The HCE also took a number of decisions regarding other issues included in the agenda.

The HCE session was attended by Professor Sayyaf, leader of Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union]; Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister; Mohammad Akbari; Shaykh Hosayn Alemi-Balkhi; Mawlawi Sameyollahi; 'Abdol Aziz Murad; Sayd Mohammad Daud Naseri; Dr. 'Abdol [surname indistinct] and Mawlawi 'Abdol Hadi.

Radio Reports on Dostam Militia Fighting

LD0907163695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of heavy fighting that occurred yesterday between two commanders of the Dostam militia in Balkh province, 20 men of both sides including a general were killed. A responsible security source told BAKHTAR that in the course of heavy fighting between men associated with Ghafar Pahlawan and Commander Abdorrahman Haqani in Aqgerak subdistrict in Sholgara district, Baharak, a general of Ghafar Pahlawan, was killed. As many as 20 men from both sides were also killed in the course of the fighting and 35 others wounded. The report says that as a result of the clash, Aqgerak has come under the control of Abdorrahman Haqani's men. Fighting among the militia continue in areas of [words indistinct] and Munjo.

India

Escaped U.S. Tourist Reports on Other Hostages

BK1007163295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the American tourist who escaped form captivity has said that the three other foreign hostages are safe and in good health. He was talking to newsmen in New Delhi today after his arrival from Kashmir. In the valley, search operations continued to secure the release of other kidnapped tourists.

The home minister has refuted the allegations that the situation in the Kashmir Valley has worsened following the recent kidnappings. Mr. S.B. Chavan said the Center [federal government] is confident of bringing normalcy to the state within six months and holding assembly elections thereafter. The minister reiterated the Center's readiness to hold talks without any preconditions with all concerned to find a lasting solution to the problem.

Daily Hails 'Significant' U.S. Change on Kashmir

BK1007051695 Delhi HINDUSTAN in Hindi 7 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Changes in Kashmir"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The abatement in the terrorist activities and the qualitative improvement in the political atmosphere in the Kashmir Valley are quite apparent. Although the anger of valley residents directed toward the Indian Government and Indian Army was at explosive after the incineration of the Charar Sharif shrine, direct contact lately with the center has created an atmosphere conductive for talks. There is more than one reason for this welcome change. The terrorists losing the support and sympathy of the common people regarding their struggle for 'liberation;' the security and armed forces tightening their noose around the necks of the terrorists; the severe entanglement of the Pakistani Government in domestic unrest; and the Bhutto government's apparent loss of U.S. support are some of the factors contributing greatly to improving the political atmosphere in the valley.

The investigating team, headed by Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, state minister in the prime minister secretariat, sent by the central government to the valley has done a commendable job in forging a bridge between the people of Kashmir and the central government. There should be no surprise at the report by this team that the people of the valley are not only dissatisfied but positively angry with the governor, General Krishna Rao, and believe he should be replaced. Indeed, General Rao has failed miserably in two terms to win popular support, lead the state administration efficiently, or subdue the menace of terrorism. The political decision to replace him should have been made a long time ago. Had such a decision been made, there would have been no need to postpone the June elections. Even now, if that step is taken it will have a favorable impact on the people of Kashmir. Delaying it further will ensure no advantage now. In addition, the teams from the central government should visit the valley frequently to listen to grievances and expedite the pace of relief measures. The time for delivering the package prepared to give impetus to the developmental work in Kashmir and to apply balm to the injured psyche of the people also has arrived, and such declarations should be made forthwith. Steps should also be taken to facilitate the return of the Hindu refugees. This would help make state elections more credible. If the central government manages to hold the Jammu-Kashmir Assembly elections by the turn of the new year, it will likely be seen as the major achievement of the Narasimha Rao government.

There is much significance attached to the statement by U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner after his recent visit to Kashmir, to the effect that his administration supports prompt Jammu-Kashmir Assembly elections. Obviously this statement bears the approval of his own government. This indicates not only a significant change in U.S. policy toward the Kashmir issue, it also gives tacit warning to the terrorists supported by Pakistan that the United States does not support their activities. The Clinton administration seems to be leaving its infatuation with Pakistan behind. The decline in Pakistan's reputation is one of the most potent factors affecting the change in the Kashmiri terrorists. Now we can hope that soon the menace of terrorism in Kashmir will be eradicated along with the ersatz war launched there by Pakistan. We can hope that in the near future, it will be quite possible to meet the aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

Daily Accuses U.S. of 'Taking Sides' in Kashmir

BK0607134095 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 1 Jul 95 p 8

[Editorial: "A Bizarre Claim by the US"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Administration's reluctance to designate Pakistan as a terrorist state is no longer surprising. What, however, does not cease to amaze is its ingenuity in fobbing off India's attempts to convince policy-makers in Washington about the need to include Pakistan in the list of countries that sponsor trans-border terrorism. If earlier the US State Department defended its decision to ignore the evidence provided by India by arguing that branding Pakistan a terrorist state would work against the elected Government in Islamabad — an argument that has been conveniently ignored while branding others like Iran and Iraq — it has now come up with the bizarre explanation that such action would amount to taking sides in the Kashmir issue. This is nothing but balderdash and deserves to be ridiculed.

Indeed, it would appear that the US is willing to take note of a regime's overt or covert links with terrorist organisations only if this poses a threat to American interests. In other words, if Pakistan's support for terrorist groups had posed a law and order problem in the US, the State Department would have been prompt in denouncing the Government in Islamabad. Nothing else explains why proof of Pakistan's involvement in fomenting trouble in Jammu and Kashmir which has been documented and presented to the US time and again by India should be ignored. It is also no mystery as to why Pakistan was taken off the watch list of terrorist states, despite the fact that several State Department officials have frequently conceded that Islamabad does have a finger in the Kashmir pie.

True, India does not really require an American certificate to substantiate its claim. But at the same time, American intransigence and comments like those expressed recently by a State Department official have proved advantageous for Pakistan — Islamabad has not missed an opportunity to flaunt Washington's apparent bias before the international community to plead its innocence. Also, such statements have provided Ms Benazir Bhutto the moral support which she so desperately needs for survival at home. Seen in this context, Washington's claim that it does not want to take sides in the Kashmir issue makes little or no sense. For, if its stated and unstated policies help Pakistan in its anti-India crusade, then it does amount to taking sides: The only difference is that instead of taking sides with India, it is doing so with Pakistan. At least this is the impression that is conveyed repeatedly by State Department officials who seem to have a definite agenda that militates against Washington's declared policy on Kashmir.

Official, Press View Pakistan Missile Acquisition

Spokesman Says 'Not Surprised'

BK1007153595 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1447 GMT 10 Jul 95

["Press Release Dated 10 July 1995" — ISI Headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Responding to a query, the [External Affairs Ministry] spokesman stated that we are not surprised by the recent U.S. media reports, based on information provided by U. S. intelligence officials, regarding incontrovertible evidence confirming the acquisition by Pakistan of substantial numbers of M-11 missiles and launchers over the past few years and preparations for their deployment. We had arrived at this assessment based on our own information sometime ago. We have shared our assessment with friendly countries. The government of India has kept a careful watch on developments regarding this matter and taken necessary steps to safeguard our national security.

Daily Views U.S. Reaction

BK0807141895 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 5 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Can the United States Take Any Action?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was certainly not new information for the U.S. Government that China had given Pakistan the M-11 missiles. Despite Pakistan's persistent denial, the Clinton administration has been receiving such information through its own intelligence sources. But by publishing the details about this information the renowned U.S. newspaper, 'THE WASHINGTON POST' has created quite a serious problem for the U.S. Administration. Now the Clinton administration can neither deny the information — how can it say that its own intelligence sources have concocted it — nor can it honestly admit the veracity of this information. Presently the senior officials of the U.S. Administration are enjoying their Independence Day vacations, but in the coming few days they are likely to come up with an evasive answer that this information is yet to be confirmed or that when it is confirmed the U.S. Government will take the appropriate action. Nevertheless, the published details of the information have definitely vexed the U.S. Administration because they not only contain the charges but offer strong evidence that cannot be easily overlooked. When the boxes containing the missiles are being regularly offloaded at Pakistan's military air base at Sargodha and the special sheds are being created to house them; when the pilots are being imparted special training to use them, it would be very difficult to deny the existence of these missiles in Pakistan. The question is: Why must the U.S. Administration hesitate in accepting the information as true? This is due to two reasons that are inseparably linked with the credibility of the U.S. policies concerning this issue. If the United States admits the arrival of M-11 missiles in Pakistan from China, what would it say about the Missile Technology Control Regime it wants to impose upon all the countries in the world?

Then, under this regime, the United States would have to take action against China and sever if not political, then at least its trade relations with China. Would the United States be prepared to jeopardize business and capital investment worth trillions of dollars? Despite the Clinton administration's sharp criticism of China on human rights, it had to give China most favored nation status in trade relations. When China conducted a nuclear test just a couple of days after the permanent finalization of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and its also signing it, the United States had to keep quiet. So it is not easy for the United States to withdraw from the Chinese market over China's giving these missiles to Pakistan. The other reason, however, is more complex. If China has really given 30 missiles to Pakistan that can easily reach most of the northern Indian cities, how can the United States force India to postpone or altogether scrap its missile program? The United States forced India to cancel its cryogenic engine deal on the plea that this device could be used in making long-range missiles. It also had the test-flights of the Indian Agni missile postponed because its strike range covered most of the Pakistani cities. Now that Pakistan is procuring such missiles that can hit most of the northern Indian cities, what moral, political, or strategic pleas can the United States offer to force India shun its missile development program? If the United States chooses to keep quiet after seeing these Chinese missiles in Pakistan, will it be punishing Pakistan for receiving these missiles from China? Will the Clinton administration keep turning a blind eye to Pakistan's acquiring these deadly missiles like it did in the case of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state? Now, verily, it is for India to decide whether it should take any countermeasure to tackle this problem.

Editorial Assails U.S. 'Indifference'

BK0907132495 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 Jul 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Turning a Blind Eye"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The indifference of the Clinton administration to evidence within its own intelligence community about M-11 missiles in Pakistani possession is a case of history repeating itself so far as the arms race in the Indian subcontinent is concerned. American claims that it is serious about missile non- proliferation have been in a way disproved by the reports from Washington which say that the Chinese are arming Pakistan with new missiles. Even more intriguing is the administration's contention that conclusive proof of the missiles in Pakistani hands would be a photograph of an M-11 outside its case in the Sargodha air force base. This is unlikely to happen simply because there is never any transparency in such arms deals. If anyone should know this it is the US, because it has transferred more arms than any other country in peacetime. Throughout the 1980s, the US administration ignored evidence from the intelligence community in several countries, including its own, about Pakistan's covert nuclear programme. Year after year, none other than the US President certified that Pakistan was not weapon even as it was inching towards and achieving nuclear capability.

The Clinton administration's tendency to bury its head in sand in the face of Islamabad's acquisition of Chinese missiles will similarly contribute to another arms race in the subcontinent. A Congressional aide to the influential Republican from North Carolina, Mr Jesse Helms, has told Washington reporters that "the fact of the matter (M-11 transfer) is so highly classified that we can't discuss in any detail our disappointment". For India; the implications of this statement are disconcerting. Just as it happened with Iraq, which received considerable US and European encouragement in the 1980s in the fight against Iran, Washington may realise too late that its policy of incorporating Pakistan into a strategic alliance has a heavy price tag. Another reason for ignoring the missile deal between Islamabad and Beijing may be that the Washington administration is in no mood to take on the Chinese on the issue. But the problem of a Pakistan continuously seeking to arm itself will not go away merely because the US wishes that unpalatable facts were simply not true.

Iraq Seeks Help To Get UN Sanctions Lifted

BK0907071995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraq has urged India to use its good offices to lift UN sanctions against Baghdad. A request to this effect made by President Saddam Husayn was conveyed to the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, by the Iraqi special envoy, Mr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, when he called on him in New Delhi today. Mr. Rao assured the visiting dignitary that the request will be given due consideration.

Iran

Rafsanjani Views U.S. Relations, Nuclear Weapons

LD1007202195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has once again stressed the ineffectiveness of the U.S. economic embargo on Iran's economy, noting that it is the Americans that are the losers.

Speaking in an interview with MEED, the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST magazine, President Rafsanjani elaborated on the hostile actions carried out by the U.S. against the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran since the victory of the Islamic revolution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's president stated that the U.S. Administration, due to specific domestic conditions, existing contradictions within the country, and its problems, is always in need of having an external enemy, which formerly was the Soviet Union and now apparently has chosen Iran to be that enemy.

Concerning the possibility of establishing relations with the U.S., Mr. Rafsanjani stressed that American behavior in the past has brought about a lack of trust by the Iranian people towards the U.S. Administration, making them feel that there is ill intentions behind any proposal made by America.

President Rafsanjani added that U.S. must show its good intention as the first step and, in order to do this, it has to release Iran's frozen assets which has been frozen unjustly.

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the interview, also reiterated that Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons; and anyone who is aware of the dimensions of the nuclear explosion caused by the U.S. in Hiroshima and Nagasaki will not be interested in possessing the atomic bomb.

President Rafsanjani said: The people of the U.S. should rest assured that Iran is in no way seeking to gain access to the nuclear bomb, but nuclear technology has many benefits other than military application; and the country cannot ignore its non-military benefits.

On the trend of the Middle East peace, President Rafsanjani said that Islamic Iran does not consider the peace plan to be just or correct, adding that, however, Iran is not practically interfering with it. President further said on this plan: Tehran only expresses its views and believes that the peace plan will reach nowhere, because no goodwill can be seen in the talks.

Iran's president further pointed out that Iran does not regard the U.S. as a just and an impartial mediator.

Rafsanjani Addresses Agreements With Turkmenistan

LD0507190795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Before leaving Tehran, Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, announced: With the signing of the crucial agreement for the sale of gas by Turkmenistan to Iran the way has been paved for the implementation of the huge gas pipelines from Turkmenistan to Europe through Iran.

Mr. Niyazov, expressing satisfaction over the results of his visit to Iran, said: Cooperation between the two countries has entered a more serious phase.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in an interview with our correspondent, said: Issues concerning the Central Asian and Caucasian regions and issues of interest to the two countries were discussed in talks with the Turkmen president.

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] An agreement for the transfer of gas from Turkmenistan to Iran was signed as a prelude to the transfer such gas to Europe; which is most important. To start with we will be using gas from Turkmenistan in the north of our country and will be exporting the saved fuel oils in return. That is most beneficial to us as well as to Turkmenistan. They have gas to sell and we add our exports to that.

Regarding the gas pipeline expenses, they will be met by the gas exported to Iran. Therefore we do not have to invest in that.

Agreements have been made for several development plans including building roads and supplying water to the border area. Practical steps were taken towards tripartite cooperation with Ukraine and Armenia; which are two separate cooperation agreements. The officials signed agreements for several industrial projects that we will be undertaking in Turkmenistan. We also made progress regarding communications.

On the whole, our past agreements are gradually entering actual implementation phase. Following the railway link at Sarakhs — which will come by the end of the current year — we will be witnessing more serious developments in our cooperation. [end recording]

President Receives New Italian Ambassador

LD0807121295 Tehran IRNA in English
1154 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA — Iran enjoys strategic location in the Middle East and among the newly independent Central Asian and Caucasus republics as well as South Asian states, Italy's new ambassador to Tehran Ludovico Ortona said here Saturday [8 July].

Ortona, meeting with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday, said that in view of Iran's exceptional position, Rome was for having "closer and deeper" ties with Tehran.

He said Tehran and Rome shared long standing cultural relations, adding that Italy considered the Islamic Republic of Iran as a country enjoying "valuable" position in the region.

While submitting his credentials to President Rafsanjani, the Italian envoy conveyed the warm greetings of Italian president Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to his Iranian counterpart.

President Rafsanjani on his part said facilities and expertise existing in Iran and Italy necessitated plannings for expansion of bilateral cooperation in future based on reciprocal respect.

He added that Iran's second five-year economic development plan (1995-2000) would provide proper opportunity for promotion of bilateral relations.

He said there were no difficulties in expanding and deepening bilateral relations.

Velayati Calls For OIC Efforts in Bosnia

LD1107101395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our country's Foreign Minister has sent a message to his Moroccan counterpart, Abdellatif Filali, who is the chairman of Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], asking for urgent efforts by the OIC in order to prevent a human catastrophe in Srebrenica.

In the message, our country foreign minister refers to the critical situation in Srebrenica and the genocide of its Muslim inhabitants. He points out: The incompetence of the international community to stop the relentless attacks by the Serbs on the safe- declared areas of Bihac, Gorazde, and Sarajevo in the past and now on Srebrenica has shaken public opinion.

Referring to the responsibility of the Islamic countries toward the Muslim and oppressed nation of Bosnia, Mr. Velayati stresses: the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that in order to implement the resolution of the OIC's seventh session in Morocco, and also the recent communique of the Islamic Contact Group, an aid mobilization to assist the Muslim people of Bosnia should take place as soon as possible so as to enable them to defend themselves legitimately.

In order to put this plan into practice, Mr. Velayati proposes that the ministers of the Islamic Contact Group should meet immediately in Rabat, Geneva, or in the capital city of one of the contact group members.

Vice President Habibi To Visit Bulgaria

Bulgarian Comments on Visit

LD0607152995 Tehran IRNA in English
1425 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA — The visiting Bulgarian senior advisor for prime minister, Philip Ishpekov, said here on Wednesday [5 July] that the forthcoming visit to Sofia by Iranian first vice-president, Hasan Habibi, would be a turning point in Tehran-Sofia relations.

Speaking in the second round of talks with Deputy Foreign Minister, Mahmud Vayezi, he said Bulgarian prime minister regards Iran as the most important trade partner in the Middle East and after the recent elections in Sofia which led to formation of a new government Bulgaria is interested in boosting the traditional and friendly relations between the two countries.

Vayezi referred to the good relations between the two countries and its impact on peace and stability of the region and said in the upcoming visit to Sofia of Habibi important accords will be signed to promote the economic and political relations.

He said the two countries economies are complimentary to each other and bilateral cooperation will lead to economic boom in the two countries.

Habibi Comments on Departure

LD1007113995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] First Vice President Hasan Habibi said this morning that the United Nations is responsible for giving shelter to the defenseless inhabitants of Srebrenica and other areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina and should take steps to fulfill this responsibility as soon as possible.

Mr. Habibi was speaking to our correspondent before leaving for Sofia. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned about the fate of 60,000 helpless inhabitants of Srebenica. [passage omitted]

Habibi Leaves With Delegation

LD1007071795 Tehran IRNA in English 0503 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — First Vice- President Hasan Habibi left here for Sofia, Bulgaria, Monday [10 July] on a three-day visit heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation.

Habibi is accompanied by Ministers of Road and Transport Akbar Torkan and Commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq. The visit is at the invitation of Bulgarian prime minister. He is to discuss with Bulgarian officials regional and international developments as well as practical ways to expand Tehran-Sofia relations.

Habibi will later leave Sofia for Minsk, Belarus. The two-day visit to Belarus is also at the invitation of the prime minister of the country.

'Outlawed Grouplet' Reportedly Attacked Inside Iraq

Radio Reports on Attack

LD0907204395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The main stronghold of the monafeqin [hypocrites —term used to describe the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] grouplet, some hundred kilometers from Baghdad city, has been rocket-attacked. The outlawed grouplet has issued a communique in the Iraqi capital claiming that the charge in which five missiles were launched against the (?estate) have had no casualty.

According to the AFP, the communique further reads that this attack is the 34th offensive mounted against MKO quarters in Iraq ever since 1993. It is noteworthy that the Muslim people of Iraq are rather enraged that this terrorist group, with collaboration with Saddam Husayn's agents, in assertion that the stationing of MKO agents in the al-Anbar Province which is enforced by the Iraqi government, aimed at suppressing the region's people, was faced with furious reactions on the part of provincial inhabitants. Elsewhere, the (?Ghalian) tribe of Iraq, in a message to the MKO leader, have threatened that this grouplet's interferences in Iraq's national affairs, may well incur severe attacks on the MKO on the part of bereaved families of Iraqi Muslim martyrs as well as that of those in detention.

Opposition Leader Cables UN on Attack

NC1107055295 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0400 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After learning of the latest terrorist crime by the clerical dictatorship in the Iraqi capital, the general commander of the National Liberation Army of Iran [NLA], Mojahed brother Mas'ud Rajavi, greeted the pure souls of the heroic martyrs Hoseyn (Sabihi), Ebrahim Salimi, and Yar 'Ali (Gortabar). He stressed the right to self-defense and the right to repulse the terrorist onslaughts by the helpless vestiges of Khomeyni and lauded the heroic operations of the Mojahedin this morning [10 July] in chasing and trapping the terrorists. He stated:

The (?mischievous) clergymen are now so (?helpless) before the growing resistance by the Iranian people and the astonishing domestic and international welcome for the president of this resistance [Maryam Rajavi] that they cannot go on without daily repression and terrorist acts. He added: Undoubtedly the executioner clergymen will pay for the unsparing bloodshed and will be unable to escape overthrow by the NLA.

The leader of Iran's resistance also sent a cable to the UN secretary general and to the Security Council, calling on them to immediately look into the daily crimes perpetrated by the terrorist and religious dictatorship ruling Iran and adding: The time has come to tend to this issue and to impose international punishment on the executioner clergymen, who are not bound by any rules or norms and who—fearing Iranian resistance and the only democratic choice— find no way out except to add to the repression and terrorism. The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] considers the diplomat-terrorists of Khomeyni's regime in Baghdad responsible for engineering and organizing today's crime. The MKO emphatically demands that the Iraqi Government and officials immediately follow up this crime, punish the terrorists, and close down the clerical regime's den of terror and spies in Baghdad.

[Signed] The MKO office in Baghdad

[Date] 19 Tir 1374 [10 July 1995]

Copies sent to the Iraqi president; deputy prime minister; foreign, interior, and justice ministers of Iraq; to the UN secretary general; president and members of the UN Security Council; chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission; chairman of the International Red Cross Committee; chairman of the UN High Commission for Refugees; and the secretary general of Amnesty International.

Government 'Source' Denies Involvement

JN1007151295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni in Tehran]

[FBIS Translated Text] An authorized source in the Iranian Foreign Ministry has denied Iran's involvement in the shelling with Katyusha rockets of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq movement positions to the north of the Iraqi capital. It has also denied any such involvement in the exchange of fire that took place in Baghdad this morning in which three Mojahedin-e Khalq cadres were reported to have been killed.

An Iranian government source attributed the frequent assassinations of the Mojahedin-e Khalq cadres to internal differences and the fragmentation plaguing the cadres and leaders of what the source described as the organization of hypocrites. He noted that European countries and the United States described this movement as terrorist in nature. He added: "Therefore, we are amazed that Iraq continues to provide shelter to it."

Finally, we must mention that such incidents take place frequently in Iraq and Iran whenever the possibility arises for the Iranian foreign minister to pay a two-year delayed visit to Baghdad. This means that an unseen, but influential, power opposes normalization between the two countries before the issue of the Iranian opposition in Baghdad and the Iraqi opposition in Tehran is settled.

Official Views Gulf Talks, Denies Attack on Iraq

LD1007172195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As before, The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes direct dialogue, without any preconditions, with the UAE [United Arab Emirates] to resolve the misunderstandings between the two countries, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi announced today in response to a request by the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration about direct talks between Iran and the UAE regarding the Iranian islands.

Stressing the importance of safeguarding the interests of Muslims in the region, which are threatened by the joint conspiracies of the United States and the Zionist regime, he said: The stance of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration about Iran is a repetition of certain issues without political, security, and regional considerations. The session was expected to pay attention to bringing about a balance in its own favor and that of the nations in the region in the face of the Zionist regime's intentions of supremacy.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran's ownership of the Iranian islands was permanent. Referring to the Qatari foreign minister's declaration of readiness to mediate between Iran and the UAE he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any neutral effort to persuade the UAE Government to continue the dialogues without preconditions.

Mohammadi strongly rejected Iraq's claim that Iran had attacked a nonmilitary target in Iraq.

'Victory-6' Maneuvers Carried Out in Persian Gulf

TV Details 'Tactical Phase'

LD0907141195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the sixth day of the great Piruzi-6 [Victory-6], maneuver electronic warfare operations, known as the tactical phase, began in the azure waters of the Persian Gulf this morning.

During this phase of the maneuver, vessels engage in electronic attack and defense, intelligence gathering, monitoring of enemy units, radar deception, diverting enemy missiles, jamming of the hypothetical enemy's radar, and electronic cover.

According to military experts this phase of the maneuver is particularly significant due to the rapid advance and technical capabilities that have been achieved in electronic warfare.

The Piruzi-6 maneuver will continue until 20 of Tir [11 July].

'Tactical Stage' Said 'Successful'

LD0907205195 Tehran IRNA in English 2043 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, July 9, IRNA — The 'tactical stage' of Victory-6 maneuvers ended on a successful note at the Persian Gulf Sunday [9 July].

The concluding part was carried out over an area of 30,000 square kilometers incorporating gunboats and airborne units and modern equipments.

In all as many as 186 exercises of different description were carried out over a period of eight days.

The 'tactical stage' tested the prowess of the Iranian naval forces in launching electronic war operations and as a military expert told IRNA, this stage of the maneuvers was of "great importance" due to the rapid progress made in the military techology field.

IRNA Reports on Exercise

LD0907144095 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, July 9, IRNA — The third phase of the Victory-Six military exercise of the navy in the Persian Gulf comprising amphibious operations, was carried out in the north of the Persian Gulf successfully.

In this phase of the maneuver, over 4,000 marines of the army and the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corpse (IRGC) launched an offensive upon the hypothetical enemy and captured its target.

In coordination with the troops, the jet fighters and bombers of the air force along with the gunboats raided the positions of the unreal enemy.

The mission was carried out within the extent of 20 nautical miles.

The reconnaissance operation was made by pilotless airplanes.

Infiltration of helicopters into the enemy's offshore positions, airborne operations and opening of operation canals in the sea were parts of the exercise.

This phase of the maneuver started on Friday [7 July].

Reasons for Increase in Price of Legumes Viewed

95LA0271H Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—Considering the situation of cultivation and production of legumes this year and the escalation in fighting smuggling, the price of various legumes will begin to decrease in the near future.**

According to a report by the economic correspondent of RESALAT, in recent years, the price of legumes has increased severely in the market, with the retail price of a kilogram of chick peas and split peas in recent days reaching 7,000 rials [R].

Based on this report, at the present time the wholesale prices of legumes per kg in the Mowlavi market are as follows: chick peas, R5,700; spit peas, R6,900; red beans, R3,200; kidney beans, R4,300, white beans, R2,800; mung beans, R1,800; and dried fava beans, R1,200.

Eshaqi, a legume seller at the Mowlavi Market, says regarding the increase in the price of these food items: Because there are some shortages of these items, some wholesalers, by engaging in speculation and false buying and selling of these items, help drive the price up and the inspection and punishment organizations have no serious supervision over the operations of these middlemen.

He also refers to the smuggling of legumes to Iran and Pakistan through Kurdistan and Chabahar and adds: One of the main reasons for the increase in the price of legumes is their being smuggled into neighboring countries, which has been escalated with the prohibition on exports.

An agricultural affairs expert believes in this regard: For various reasons, last year, the production of grains in the neighboring countries, including Pakistan and Turkey, decreased so that Turkey, which is one of the main exporters of chick peas in the world and whose low prices have always caused the decrease of the exports of other countries, last year did not have sufficient production as in previous years. India and Pakistan, as well, faced a decrease in production. This has caused the rush of buyers to the Iranian markets and has increased demand for smuggling and exports.

He adds: The problem of smuggling is an important factor in the increase in the price of legumes because it prevents the regulation of the market of these goods. Considering the recent communique of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency, this illegal act must be decisively fought.

On the other hand, one of the shopkeepers refers to the purchasing of foodstuff, including legumes, by Central Asian tourists and says: Purchasing foodstuff at high prices, these people cause false price increases and demand and escalate the confusion regarding prices.

In continuing his report, our correspondent adds: Since the beginning of this week, the foodstuff and legume market has been facing a recession, and few people engage in buying and selling. This is while the retail prices of legumes per kg are as follows: chickpeas, R6,500; split peas, R7,000; lentils, R3,700; kidney beans, R4,500; and red beans, R2,300-3,000.

A number of people also in conversations with our corespondent expressed their dissatisfaction with the operations of the Ministry of Commerce regarding regulating the goods market and said: Those who disrupt the economic affairs and the market of essential goods must be decisively dealt with.

Production of Chickens, Eggs, Dairy Increases

95LA0271J Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—The level of production of dairy products, chicken, and eggs this year will increase 23 percent.**

In a gathering of the officials of livestock affairs of provinces in Lorestan, Engineer 'Azizollahi, deputy minister of construction jihad for livestock affairs, said: The production of dairy products, chicken, and eggs, at a 23-percent increase, will reach 8.5 million tons per year.

In the same connection, the capacity of the milk industries increased 300 percent, meat industries 200 percent, and chicken and egg production 400 percent.

Long Lines Continue for Milk Purchases

95LA0271C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—At the present, the distribution of subsidized milk has decreased, and long lines of buyers form in front of the distributing stores from the early hours of the morning.**

According to a report by the RESALAT economic correspondent, in recent weeks, the distribution of subsidized milk in the city of Tehran has not kept up with the demand, and this problem has caused a waste of time for their customers and crowding in front of distribution centers.

The head of Zahedi store, located on Ostad Nejatollahi Street, says in this regard: Our allocation is 20 crates of milk every other day, which does not meet the needs of our customers. Another seller who does not want his name to be mentioned says: The distribution companies do not distribute milk well, so that if the store owner is not present, or even on occasions when the store owner waits until some time after dark to receive his allocation, the drivers do not deliver the allocation.

Emphasizing the necessity for serious supervision over the operation of the milk distribution companies, he adds: In my opinion, violations by these companies are the main cause of the milk shortage.

Parviz Shajari, a milk customer, says: Storekeepers also are not fair in distributing milk, and they sell some of their milk allocation on the free market at higher prices than ratified or convert it into dairy products.

Another purchaser says: We have to stand in line from 0500 for two bottles of milk, which they give us.

In the same connection, a food industry expert says: At the present, 400 tons of subsidized milk is distributed daily by the Tehran Pasteurized Milk Company, affiliated with the Iranian Milk Industries Company, and 50 tons is also distributed by Pak Pasteurized Company throughout Tehran.

He adds: The distribution of milk in Districts 5 and 9 is the responsibility of Pak Company, and in the other 18 districts, the responsibility of the Tehran Pasteurized Milk Company. The Pak Company handles its own distribution, but the Tehran Pasteurized Milk Company has conferred its milk distribution on several distribution companies. Due to lack of sufficient supervision over their work, most of the violations are committed by them. They do not deliver part of the allocations to the storekeepers and instead wholesale it on the open market.

This expert points out the change in the consumption and production level of milk in various seasons and adds: With organized planning, a balance must be created between production and consumption in various seasons of the year.

On the other hand, when our correspondent contacted the Public Relations Office of the Iranian Milk Industries Company and the general manager of Tehran Pasteurized Milk Company, they postponed offering any sort of explanation regarding production and distribution of milk in Tehran to coordinate with the general manager of the Iranian Milk Industries.

In continuing his report, our correspondent adds: Due to the lack of organization in milk distribution and some other violations of the Iranian Milk Industries Companies, Engineer Haqshenas, the general manager of this company, was dismissed by the punishment organization and convicted to six months prohibition on government service. This ruling can be appealed.

It is interesting that the accusations against Eng. Haqshenas include hoarding, price hiking, lack of supervision over the operations of the distribution companies resulting in selling outside the network, failure to observe the pricing rules, and insulting the punishment organization officials.

Subsidized Milk Distribution in Tehran Reported

95LA0271I Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 May 95 p 11

[Report on interview with Engineer 'Ali Ashghar Ja'fari, director of the Tehran Pasteurized Milk Factories, by RESALAT's economic correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—Production and distribution of subsidized milk at the present has increased 30 tons per day compared to the average production for last year.**

Engineer 'Ali Ashghar Ja'fari, the director of the Tehran Pasteurized Milk Factories, in an interview with RESALAT's economic correspondent, also said: Production and distribution of subsidized milk is based on the amount that the Economic Council allocates for subsidy. At the present, from the production of the Tehran Pasteurized Milk, Pak, and Gorgan Factories, about 530 tons of subsidized milk is distributed.

He emphasized: At the present, there are no problems regarding milk production, and subsidized milk production has a specific ceiling of about 420,000 tons per year.

Regarding the ways of overseeing the distribution of milk, he said: Overseeing the operations of the distribution companies at the level that they receive and carry out the allocation on time is done by us, and outside the factory, too, the responsibility for supervision and distribution rests with the Inspection, Supervision, and Punishment Organization.

He continued: We have not been notified that the Milk Industries Company is responsible for overseeing milk distribution, even though with all the resources at the present, we are overseeing distribution, and violations are at a minimum.

Continuing, he added: Also, in order for drivers to enter and exit, a time clock has been installed so that the time of entry and exit and the route of drivers is specified, and if a driver is seen outside the assigned route, he will be dealt with.

Eng. Ja'fari emphasized: If violation by a distributing agent is proven, his allocation will be cut, and another suitable agent will replace him in the same region.

Concluding this interview, referring to the level of daily production of dairy products at the present, which compared to last year has increased by 200 tons, Eng. Ja'fari said: Soon, new dairy products, including chocolate milk and also powdered yogurt drink, will be produced on a large scale.

Import of Red Meat Decreases by 60%

95LA0271M Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] The general manager of the National Meat Organization said: The level of annual import of red meat in the past five years has decreased by 60 percent.

Engineer Mohammad A'abdollah announced the level of import of red meat at the start of the First Plan at 180,00 tons per year, while last year it decreased to 65,000 tons.

According to him, despite the decrease in imports, allocated meat will continue to be distributed in the country this year.

Pakistan

Editorial Condemns Bhutto's Stance on MQM

95AS0445D Karachi AMN in Urdu 29 May 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Opposition Leader's Concern"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The leader of the opposition party, Nawaz Sharif has said that Benazir should apologize to the nation for insulting Karachi's patriotic and respectable citizens and retract her irresponsible statements because the majority of Karachi's residents are the same people who created Pakistan and sacrificed their homes, property and lives to achieve that goal. He said that the prime minister's attack was rubbing salt into their wounds and that she wanted to push the situation to the point of no return.

Prime minister Bhutto sometimes gets carried away by her own oration and says things which are not considered suitable under ordinary circumstances. Benazir's words and statements have wounded the feelings of a large part of the population and displeased them. Her sudden and intense reaction has astonished and upset every school of thought and has raised the question as to why Benazir has acted against her office and responsibility by indulging in such attacks.

For a long time, Karachi has been suffering from the break down of law and order. The present federal and provincial governments have repeatedly assured the people that they understood the problems of Sindh's urban areas and would remedy them. Before and after assuming office, Benazir has on various occasions called the unrest and disorder in Sindh a political problem. During the army's clean-up operation, she stressed the need for negotiations and made the army's withdrawal a part of political action. However, the fact is that one does not see any positive steps being taken toward this objective. The government acknowledges that urban dwellers in this province have been exploited; the facilities in a city such as Karachi are very defective and insufficient; the educational standard has been deliberately destroyed; the young have been deprived of a livelihood. A Karachi package with a large budget was announced which was to have improved the economic situation; many projects have been repeatedly mentioned and some of them are being carried out by a non-elected, appointed administrator and advisory council. The government also intends to have municipal departments administered by non-elected individuals. No census has as yet been carried out. The recent violent incidents in Karachi have once again paralyzed city life and the government has again failed seriously on the administrative level but it remains intransigent and will not take any political steps in the province.

It was not long ago that any mention of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] or its leadership was a punishable act. The party's loyalty to the country could not be questioned. This despite the party and its leaders' implication in various terrorist incidents. Even today, its opponents accuse it of being a terrorist party. The assumption of office by the PPP and Benazir Bhutto was the result of political decisions and activism. It is astonishing that a party which claims to have been born of political activism, consistently shies away from taking political decisions in a province where it has a strong political base.

MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] represents this province's urban areas. One may have ideological or political differences of opinion with this party and these differences may be superficial or deep, but one cannot ignore this party's right to representation. The government pretends to hold discussions with MQM but one sees that during negotiations, bitter differences increase rather than decrease and communication grows weaker. The government should not shut its eyes to the fact that the worst kind of administrative measures and the use of provincial violence have ignited intense feelings among the young. The government is using non-political methods to drive the people out of politics.

By her insulting accusations against MQM, the prime minister has severely wounded the feelings of a large part of the province's residents and intensified political confrontation. It is possible that she will soon realize her mistake; she is a political person and thus, sooner or later, she will have to understand that defeating political opponents in the political arena is the positive aspect of the political game. The government may have an exaggerated idea of its political and administrative powers but it will soon have to accept the fact that in Sindh, the situation will improve only when a solution of the problems is sought through compromise with the body which has the right to represent the urban residents of this province. Instead of using force blindly and trying to find a way out by means of the gun, a solution should be arrived at through negotiation. Nawaz Sharif is right when he says that the government is not sincerely trying to improve Karachi's situation.

Daily Interviews MQM Chief on Karachi Violence

BK1007083595 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 10 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[Report on interview with "Founder leader of Muhajir Qaumi Movement" Altaf Hussain at the London office of MQM; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London — Founder leader of Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], Altaf Hussain has appealed to the intellegentsia of Punjab to come forward and save Pakistan from further disintegration. "Punjab is a big power and has an effective say in the affairs of the country. If Punjabis do not save Muhajirs from merciless killings, the future historian will hold them responsible for further dismemberment of Pakistan as they are held responsible for the separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan."

This is the considered opinion of the self-exiled leader of the Muhajirs of Karachis and other urban areas of Sindh.

In about three-hour long interview with Pakistan Observer and Al- Akhbar in a small room of the London office of MQM, a fists-waving Hussain spoke in such a high pitch as if he was addressing a public meeting of fifty thousand Muhajirs at Nishtar Park, Karachi. However throughout the interview he was extremely passionate, persuasive and sounded genuine.

When informed that Punjab is extremely upset over what is happening in Karachi and Punjabis are asserting themselves to ensure that bleeding Karachi returns to nomalcy but at the same time Punjab does not condone "terrorism" and "Indian connections", Altaf Hussain recited Kalma Thyyuba [Koranic verse] in a loud voice and leaning closer to me said: "Malik Sahib! We have no Indian connections. We broke away our Indian connections when we migrated to Pakistan. And if India or Indian agents in Pakistan are in any way involved in the killings of Karachi I will fight against them. Muhajirs will join hands with other Pakistanis and fight against India."

"Would you please elaborate your stance about India a bit more", I asked. Altaf said: "I am a Pakistani from top to toe. I live in London, unwillingly of course, but I would like to be buried in Pakistan, in Karachi somewhere near the mazars [mausoleum] of Quaid-i-Azam and Liaquat Ali Khan."

State-owned well-oiled propaganda machinery of Pakistan has made the people to believe that Altaf lives a luxurious, rather royal life in London and that he travels in an expensive chauffeur-driven car. Contrary to this misleading impression, Altaf lives in a house in the Hill Mill area which is as big or small as his 'nine-zero' house-cum headquartes in Karachi. That above is mere 120 square yard and actually belongs to his mother. It was purchased for Rs [rupees] 14,000 in 1969. In London Hussian moves in a car which is similar in condition to that of 1962 Morris taxis which were frequently seen on the uneven roads of Rawalpindi before the arrival of the yellow cars of the then premier Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

According to Altaf Hussain, he bought his "luxury car" for just two hundred (200) British pounds.

The MQM leader minced no words in expressing his mistrust for the opposition leader, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. "But people in Pakistan believe that Sharif is in league with you," I suggested. Altaf Hussian replied: "How I can be in league with a person who ordered Army operation in Karachi? What was the justification for the army action against the whole of Karachi? What was the justification for Gen Janjua-led operation against the entire Muhajirs? If there were certain lawbreakers or anti-state elements, as they call it, in the fold of MQM they should have rounded up those elements. But they degraded the entire Muhajir community.

"But at present Sharif, according to him, is trying to save Karachi", I interrupted. "We are agrateful to him for that. But Muhajirs will never forgive him for that operation", he said.

From the details of the 1992 Army operation as described at length by Altaf Hussain, I gathered the impression that he has actually developed a sort of hatred for (a) Nawaz Sharif; (b) Gen Janjua whose buried body was exhumed and thus desecrated by the Moen Qureshi Government; and (c) a twice-married serving General of the army (name withheld) for their respective roles in the Karachi operation.

Hussain vehemently denied the allegation that he is working for "Jinnah Pur" or even for a separate province. The conspirators themselves made a map of Jinnah Pur and other related documents. The idea was to turn the people against the MQM.

"Those were fictitious documents. We were accused of treason. If we were working for Jinnah Pur or if we were working for a new Hong Kong I can own that. I am sitting in London where I have no fear of the agencies. I can say yes, yes we want a separate province or Jinnah Pur. Who can prevent we from saying that if it can be proved that we are working for Jinnah Pur, etc then I may be hanged. And if it is proved that some people are falsely accusing us and they are conspiring against us then they should be hunged," said Hussain.

However, as I prepared to depart, Altaf Hussian cautioned rather pensively. Whatever I have said, I have said on my own behalf. So far as international conspiracies are concerned these are reflected by the Western media. Previously they use to dub us as "terrorists". Now they call us "Militants". A time may come when they will describe us "freedom fighters". I will not be happy if that happens."

I made him conscious of the fact that, keeping in view the strange and unpredictable behaviour of the power politics in Pakistan he may come into power in future, therefore his behavior and image has to be that of a responsible politician and statesman. Secondly, I told Altaf he should see to it that there is no dead end so far as Karachi issue is concerned. I can say with confidence that the MQM leader will come two steps foward if the Government takes one step.

Will the Government take this vital and much-needed one step?

Government To Hold Talks With MQM in Islamabad

TV Details Upcoming Talks

BK0807135595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first round of talks between the government and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf Group will be held in Islamabad on Wednesday [12 July]. The talks will begin at 1900 in the Parliament House committee room no. 5. The government's team in the talks is led by Federal Minister for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Professor N.D. Khan, while Mr. Ajmal Dehlavi is the leader of the Altaf Group team. PTV political representative says the decision about the date and time of the talks has been taken with mutual consultations and both the parties are in constant touch with each other. The federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Prof. N.D. Khan, told our representative that it is the priority of the government to restore peace and tranquillity in Karachi. He said the government is desirous of settling the Karachi issue through serious dialogue, as being an elected government it believes in settling all political issues through negotiations. The minister said the members of the MQM- Altaf Group delegation will be the guests of the government and they will be accorded protocol and provided security.

Official Expresses 'Hope' for Success

BK1107065595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf group talks begin at Parliament House in Islamabad at 7 PM [1400 GMT] today to restore peace and normalcy in Karachi. The government team would be led by the minister fore law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, N.D. Khan, while the Altaf group would be headed by Ajmal Dehlvi.

On the eve of the talks, N.D. Khan has said they will enter into negotiations with an open heart and sincerity of purpose. The law minister said the talks are unconditional and both sides are in constant touch with each other. Zuhair Akram Nadim, MNA [member of National Assembly] and member of the government negotiation team, in a statement said that only a flexible attitude can insure the success of talks and regain peace and tranquility in Karachi. Ajmal Dehlvi also expressed confidence that outcome of the talks would be positive. He said statements of the prime minister and her cabinet colleagues indicate that the government was sincere.

Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, federal minister for information and broadcasting, has expressed the hope that talks between the government and Altaf group would succeed. Talking to newsmen at Multan airport last evening, he said the government wanted to resolve political problems through political means. He said the Karachi problem is not new and the previous government of Nawaz Sharif had tried to resolve the problem through launching Army operation. The federal minister said complete harmony and cohesion is prevailing among the People's Democratic Front members and there was no threat to the coalition at Punjab as well as at the federal level. He said Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo would continue to be the chief minister of Punjab. Referring to the by-election result of constituency PP-74 in Toba Tek Singh, the federal minister said the victory of the candidate other than the ruling party has proved that the democracy is strengthening its roots in the country.

Nawaz Sharif, leader of the opposition in National Assmebly, has said the success of the talks to bring normalcy in Karachi depends on the sincerity of both sides. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday, he said it was the duty of the government to end instability prevailing in Karachi. He was of the opinion that paramilitary operations should be suspended for the success of the negotiations.

MQM Official Views Possible Failure

BK1107085895 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — If the proposed government- MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] parleys starting (today) Tuesday [11 July], fail or are delayed, MQM leadership and coordination committee would feel compelled to demand a new province and choose a new name.

The head negotiator of MQM team, Ajmal Dehlvi, said Monday while talking to newsmen at his office. "Should the talks fail, a province would be demanded, making Sindh's division inevitable".

The MQM dialogue committee would leave for Islamabad today (Tuesday) morning.

MQM, Dehlvi said, would go to Islamabad with 18-point charter of demands as agenda, while government agenda would be unfolded on the spot. "Not even a single point would be dropped out and all have to be accepted", he added.

Informed he: There would be no compromise on the 18 points as they are basic demands of the MQM.

Some of the demands are: population census, compensation to those killed or injured during the last three years and punishment to those officials who had victimised Muhajirs.

When asked whether the 18 points include demand for power sharing, Dehlvi said, "no". For acceptance of some of these demands, there could be a period of one month or one year. The government should ensure implementation of the demands within the stipulated time. MQM would also suggest a joint committee to monitor implementation of demands, Dehlvi said.

When asked about demand of reviewing of cases against MQM leaders and workers, he said the party has demanded a commission comprising Supreme Court and High Court judges.

Continued Dehlvi: If operation in Karachi is continued, the two- day weekly protest would linger on till the government creates a conducive atmosphere to talks.

A political understanding developed with PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] and ANP [Awami National Party] in London two months back can turn into a political alliance, Dehlvi disclosed. ANP and PML-N have also accepted MQM demands, he revealed. About dialogue committee's powers, Ajmal said it has full authority to give final shape to any settlement.

"When questioned what would be the fate of the agreement if PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government was toppled, Dehlvi said, "the dialogues are between the government and MQM. Any other government assuming power would be asked to implement this agreement.

When pointed out that Karachi youths are being grilled while going out of the country of Karachi, Dehlvi said, "so far such thing is not in his knowledge, but if this is true, MQM would definitely take it up during talks in Islamabad. To yet another question, he said provocative statements from both sides had been stopped forthwith so that talks are held in a conducive atmosphere."

MQM Declares Strike After Member Dies in Custody

BK0807110095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 8 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Friday [7 July] announced a two-day mourning over the death of former councillor Aslam Subzwari in police custody. The mourning will be observed on Sunday and Monday, immediately after the weekly two-day agitation of Friday and Saturday. Seven people were killed in sporadic violence elsewhere in Karachi on Friday.

The decision of two-day mourning was taken in an emergent [as published] meeting of the Coordination Committee and endorsed by the self-exiled MQM Chief Altaf Hussain.

Addressing an emergency press conference at Nine-Zero on Friday evening, MPA Shaolb Bukhari said that Aslam Subzwari was murdered in cold blood by the police. He said that the former councillor was neither a heart patient nor suffering from any serious disease.

"Torture marks on Subzwari's body are a clear proof that the former councillor was tortured to death by the police," said Bukhari.

Bukhari said that the government had recently announced Rs [rupees] 1.5 million head money for his arrest. Subzwari was arrested by the police from North Nazhmabad near the National Identification Office on Thursday morning.

Bukhari said that soon after Subzwari was picked up by plainclothed policemen, MQM MPA [member of provincial assembly] Shoalb Bukhari immediately informed the Chief Minister Monitoring Cell on 134, telling them that the former councillor might be killed in police custody.

"I not only informed the 134 but also tried to talk to Sindh Minister Zafar Leghari who was supposed to be on duty at that time. But he was not present and his personal secretary assured me that a complaint would be registered in this regard," said Bukhari.

He said that he had also contacted Deputy Commissioner Central Khusro Pervez, who confirmed that Subzwari had been arrested. The MQM MPA also faxed a letter to President Leghari on 1:20 pm Thursday, informing him about the arrest of Subzwari and his fears that the councillor might be killed in a fake police encounter.

On Friday morning Subzwari was brought dead to the JPMC [expansion unknown] where doctors confirmed that the deceased was subjected to severe torture. Commenting over police stance that Subzwari was already tortured when taken into custody, Bukhari said it needed no comments as the people were aware of such jokes on the part of the police.

Bukhari demanded that the policemen involved in the murder should be arrested immediately, be tried in an open court and awarded exemplary punishment. He also demanded that the heirs of the former councillor be given Rs1.5 million as compensation.

On the other hand, the Karachi Police Chief Shoalb Suddle has ordered a departmental inquiry into Sabzwari's death. The Deputy Commissioner Central has appointed SDM Liaqatabad Farhan Aziz for a judicial probe of the incident.

Supporting the police stance, Senior Superintendent Police, district Central, Din Mohammed Baloch, claimed that Subzwari was picked up by the police from Liaqatabad No 4 in a critical condition on Thursday. The policemen found Subzwari unconscious and took him to the Gulberg Police Station where he died of a heart attack during the four-hour-long interrogation.

Karachi Observes Strike; 9 Killed

BK0907154095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Normal life in Karachi was affected today due to the appeal for a strike issued by the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf group. Most of the business centers and markets were closed, and public transport was off the roads in most areas. However, small shopkeepers selling food items opened their shops, and private cars, taxis and rickshaws were operating, although in small numbers.

According to a press note issued in Karachi, nine persons were killed and about 16 injured in incidents of shooting in various areas of the city. Three vehicles and a building were set on fire.

A press note issued by the Hyderabad district magistrate this afternoon says a strike was observed in most areas of Hyderabad and Latifabad. Traffic was lighter than normal. However, many shops remained open in many areas including Qasimabad, Sadar, Tando Wali Mohammad, Baja Chowk, SITE Area, Hajji Road, Sabzi Mandi, General Bus stand, and the outskirts of towns. Miscreants set some property on fire. Law enforcement agencies have arrested 19 persons involved in terrorism.

MQM Curtails Strike for Talks

BK1007024595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Altaf Group [of Muhajir Qaumi Movement or MQM] issued a statement in Karachi yesterday which said that the two-day strike covering Sunday [9 July] and Monday has been curtailed by a day, therefore, there will be no strike today. The statement said that the decision was taken by the Altaf Group as a gesture of goodwill before the proposed talks with the government.

The Karachi commissioner in a press note issued last night has said that 10 people were killed and 19 injured in continuing violence in various parts of the Karachi city. The press note gave districtwise details of these incidents and said that no one was killed or injured in South, West, and Malir Districts.

Sri Lanka

Minister: Government 'To Wipe Out' LTTE

BK0607052695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is committed to establish a viable social structure where all citizens of this country would live with equality and dignity. To achieve this objective, the government has decided to wipe out the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist organization. The deputy minister of defense, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, said that the government will implement its program against the LTTE according to a detailed plan.

The minister was speaking at a function to hand over donations received from the workers of the estate to the National Defense Fund at the Defense Ministry in Colombo yesterday. The total donation was 575,000 rupees. Colonel Ratwatte has reiterated that the ongoing war was not against the peace-loving Tamil community in the country. He said that the president is determined to reestablish peace in the country through political dialogue. However, he said that the LTTE broke off from the peace talks initiated earlier this year and have resumed violence. The deputy defense minister said that the government is prepared to destroy the terrorists who are an impediment to achieve peace. The government has full confidence in the armed forces and the police who successfully complete their offensive against the LTTE. Speaking further, Colonel Ratwatte said that the National Defense Fund will be utilized for the welfare of the armed forces, the police, and their families.

Parliament Extends Emergency in North, East

BK0807135895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Parliament passed a motion yesterday to extend the state of emergency in northern and eastern provinces and in several divisions and secretariat divisions by a further month. Winding up the debate, Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte said that war was the only reply to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], which is not for peace. The government will win the war and peace will be reestablished.

The minister said that he visited the army camps in the Jaffna Peninsula in the last few days and inspected the security situation; among them were the Palali, Karainagar, Mandaitivu, Pooneryn and Elephant Pass camps. The defense minister also visited the Chenkaladi camp in the Eastern Province. He said the forces have the necessary strength, courage and dedication to face the enemy. The minister, on behalf of the government, gave an assurance that peace would be reestablished in the country, overcoming LTTE terrorism with the enhanced morale of the forces. Mr. Ratwatte arrived in Colombo at 1700 yesterday after his Jaffna tour.

Rebels Issue Bomb Threat if Probe Not Ordered

BK0807093895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, July 8 (AFP) — Tamil guerrillas threatened to bomb the Sri Lankan capital if the government failed to probe the military's alleged use of civilians as human shields, a letter from a front organisation said Saturday [8 July].

The warning issued by the Ellalan Force (EF) was received here barely 12 hours after the expiry of a Friday night deadline set by the rebels for President Chandrika Kumaratunga to order an inquiry into the claims.

"If the request of the Ellalan Force was accepted by the government before the deadline, the bomb-planted locations will be informed immediately," said the one-page type-written EF letter sent to news agencies here.

The EF which is believed to be a front organisation of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had earlier accepted responsibility for last month's failed bomb attack on Colombo International airport.

The EF said that minority Tamils were being used by security forces to clear mine fields, a charge denied by the military. The group has warned that it had finalised arrangements to detonate "massive bombs" in the capital.

The organisation said a technical failure prevented their a van-bomb exploding outside the airport arrival terminal last month. Police found 35 kilos (77 pounds) of plastic explosives inside body panels of the vehicle.

Bomb Explodes in Captial; No Casualties

BK0907104295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1023 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, July 9 (AFP) — A bomb exploded in a park in the Sri Lankan capital Sunday [9 July] but there were no casualties, military officials said here.

The bomb at the Vihara Maha Devi park opposite the Town hall was similar to the one that exploded in Sri Lanka's zoological gardens a week ago, a military spokesman said. There were no casualties in the zoo blast too.

The blast came after a front organisation of the Tamil Tiger guerrillas threatened to carry out bomb attacks in the capital on Sunday and Monday.

A letter from a front organisation said Saturday that Tamil guerrillas threatened to bomb the Sri Lankan capital if the government failed to probe the military's alleged use of civilians as human shields.

The explosion also came on the same day as security forces here launched their biggest ever offensive against the Tamil Tiger guerrillas in a bid to turn the tables on the rebles who have killed nearly 500 troops since breaking off peace talks three months ago.

The land, sea and air attack involving four brigades of 10,000 soldiers was launched against positions of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) inside the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula, the military said.

President Launches Movement To Support Soldiers

BK0907120095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga says that the major challenge facing the country today is to bring an end to the war and a permanent political solution to the problem which was the cause of the current crisis. The president was speaking at the launching of the (Subha Melum) — White Lotus movement [to raise $15 million for the welfare of soldiers fighting the Tamil rebels] — at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. The task before the government and the people was to build a strong nation by integrating all communities and giving them a Sri Lankan identity. Mrs. Kumaratunga observed that separatist tendencies were the legacy of the imperialists who coupled them with political freedom when Sri Lanka gained independence. On the other hand, the successive regimes had also failed to promote unity by bringing together all communities since independence.

Referring to criticism by certain sections of the people, the president said that people who suffered for 17 years are naturally expecting many benefits in the wake of the victory they gained by defeating the previous regime. In this context, she pointed out that proper development programs will benefit the people but optimum results cannot be expected without ending the ethnic crisis in the island.

Mrs. Kumaratunga announced that the government has now commenced the second phase of the peace process as the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has decided to resume hostilities since the 19th of April. Security operations have been launched to restore peace, as the government was willing to achieve this objective even in other possible ways. She expressed the hope that the LTTE will be defeated and the government's peace endeavors be fulfilled. She also said that the government's political package aimed at ending the ethnic crisis will be unveiled shortly. The convener of the movement and the minister of sports and telecommunications, Mangala Samaraweera, said that committees will be set up at village level to carry forward the (Subha Melum) campaign.

Government Forces Begin Offensive Against LTTE

AFP Details Operation 'Leap Forward'

BK0907090395 Hong Kong AFP in English
0445 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, July 9 (AFP) — Sri Lankan security forces Sunday [9 July] launched their biggest-ever land, sea and air offensive against Tamil Tigers inside the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula, the military said.

Four brigades with a total of 10,000 soldiers moved out of their defence lines in the Palaly airforce and army base in the Jaffna peninsula at dawn Sunday to mount the operation codenamed "Leap Forward," a military spokesman said

He said artillery guns, tanks, aircraft and gunboats were supporting ground troops in their advance into territory held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) inside Jaffna. An indefinite curfew has been imposed on Jaffna.

"We are still awaiting details of the battle," the spokesman said. The drive was widely expected and junior defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte had hinted on Friday that a weekend operation was imminent.

Military sources said the latest operation involved the highest number of ground troops committed to a single military campaign by Sri Lankan security forces.

The second-largest government operation, codenamed "Liberation" involved only two brigades, or about 5,000 troops. That offensive, carried out in 1987, was considered a success after soldiers drove out the LTTE from a section of the Jaffna peninsula.

Tamil sources who support the government's military drive against the LTTE said they expected the army to take on bases of the Sea Tigers — the naval units of the Tamil Tigers who run a de facto separate state inside Jaffna.

Sea Tiger units have been posing a serious threat to the Sri Lankan navy, which shoulders a greater responsibility to supply food, ammunition and reinforcements to a string of military bases surrounding the Jaffna peninsula.

In April this year, the LTTE shot down two aircraft landing and taking off from Palaly, killing all 97 people aboard, and crippled the security force air bridge to army bases around Jaffna.

Sunday's offensive was launched with an indefinite curfew across Jaffna and a brief military statement said all precautions were being taken to minimise civilian casualties.

"Maximum precautions have been taken to avoid civilian casualties," the military statement said without giving details.

Curfews in Jaffna cannot be imposed by the government but it gives pilots a licence to bomb moving targets.

The dawn offensive came barely 24 hours after President Chandrika Kumaratunga vowed to fight to restore peace in her ethnically divided nation.

"If peace cannot be achieved by peaceful means, we will resort to any means to restore peace," Kumaratunga said at the launch of a campaign called "White Lotus" to raise 15 million dollars for the welfare of soldiers fighting Tigers.

A front organisation of the LTTE has already threatened to bomb Colombo if the government failed to probe the alleged military use of civilians as human shields in the island's multi-ethnic eastern province.

The warning issued by the Ellalan Force (EF) was received here Saturday by news agencies barely 12 hours after the expiry of a Friday night deadline set by the group for Kumaratunga to order an inquiry into the claims.

"If the request of the Ellalan Force was accepted by the government before the deadline, the bomb-planted locations will be informed immediately," said the one-page type-written EF letter sent by ordinary mail.

Police said they considered the EF a front of the LTTE and security was being tightened here. The EF had earlier accepted responsibility for last month's failed bomb attack on the Colombo International airport.

Rebels Reportedly Seek Assistance

BK1007153795 Hong Kong AFP in English
1502 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, July 10 (AFP) — Fierce hand-to-hand battles erupted in northern Sri Lanka Monday [10 July] as Tamil Tigers resisted a major military advance against them and appealed for blood donations, officials and rebel radio said.

Army casualties Monday rose to six killed and 71 wounded in the biggest ever campaign against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched in the Jaffna peninsula Sunday, a military spokesman said.

"The terrorists are coming towards us. Our objective is to kill as many as possible. We are asking civilians to return to liberated areas in the next few days," spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

The LTTE's clandestine Voice of Tigers radio went on the air Monday night appealing for blood donors and asked shop-keepers to remain open to prevent food shortages in the rebel-dominated Jaffna peninsula.

Munasinghe discounted claims by the LTTE that 160 civilians had been killed, 250 wounded and another 400,000 displaced as a result of the heavy fighting concentrated on the south western flank of the Palaly military complex.

"There are no civilians in the areas where the fighting is taking place because they had enough time to get out of the firing line. But we are asking civilians to return in about two days," Munasinghe said.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga who ordered the offensive after the failure of her peace moves to political resolve the conflict offered a major heart-and-minds offensive to provide relief aide to refugees.

Kumaratunga's ofice said a ministerial team was appointed Monday to care for thousands of Tamil civilians who were expected to return to large parts of the peninsula brought under government control in the past two days.

As heavy fighting flared, an airforce Bell-212 helicopter was shot and crippled forcing the pilot to carry out an emergency landing behind their own lines, Munasinghe said.

Defence source said the aircraft, the second to be hit in as many days, may not be able to fly immediately as it required extensive repairs after it toppled on crash landing, wounding one officer and an airforce gunner.

Munasinghe said aircraft bombed at least three targets in support of ground troops conducting operation "Leap Forward" which involves some 10,000 soldiers, the navy as well as the airforce.

During the first phase Monday, the army advanced five kilometres (3.13 miles) on one axis and seven kilometres (4.38 miles) along another from their Palaly military complex at the northern tip of the peninsula.

For the first time in eight years, the Sri Lankan security forces retook a strategic causeway linking the peninsula and a naval base located on the small islet of Karainagar to the west of Jaffna, the symbol of Tamil separatism.

Tamil Tigers also carried out an apparent diversionary attack on a police post in the island's north central region Monday, killing five people and wounding two others, the military said.

Defence sources said the government was pressured to launch "Leap Forward" after a series of reversals suffered by the military since the LTTE pulled out of peace talks on April 19.

Since then, the LTTE has killed 500 government troopers, according to military figures. The military also claims killing an equal number of rebels but the guerrillas say the figure is much lower.

Media Reports on Continued Operation

BK1107124095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces which have already liberated some areas in the Jaffna Peninsula will further advance today deeper into enemy territory. Today, is the third day of the massive operation — Leap Forward. The government troops yesterday consolidated the military successes. Some of the areas were (Tunavi) and Sandilippai. The security forces encountered heavy resistance from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] at (Tunavi) but were able to face it successfully. They received their support. Successful attacks were launched on three targets. Although the terrorists aimed an attack at a helicopter, only minor damage was caused.

At a news conference in Colombo yesterday, military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said that the overall objective of the major offensive was to liberate the innocent Tamil people from the grip of the terrorists. He said that they wanted to defeat the LTTE militarily and the armed forces were engaged in the operation for this purpose with dedication. The current military objective is to draw and kill as many terrorists as possible. Although there was a slight delay in advancement due to clashes with the terrorists at (Tunavi), the forces were able to destroy militants.

In the Leap Forward operation, 65 terrorists were killed according to interception of their messages. It was clear from the messages that they were attempting to describe that those killed were civilians. During clashes yesterday and on Sunday [9 July], five members of the security forces were killed.

The security forces resumed their offensive for the third day in succession against the LTTE targets south of Sandilippai in Jaffna early today. A communique from the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense says that the security forces were yesterday confronted by the LTTE cadres in Sandilippai as the offensive recommenced at 0630 today. LTTE terrorists launched an attack at around 0400 today, however, the security forces effectively repulsed the attack causing casualties to the terrorists. In the confrontation, nine army persons, including an officer, received injuries.

In yesterday's confrontation, four soldiers were killed and the number of casualties on the LTTE side is not known. According to the operational headquarters, the soldiers in the battlefront are fighting with high morale and determination. A military spokesman says that during the offensive in the Jaffna Peninsula, every effort will be taken to protect the civilians in the north.

The news communique further said that the operations in the Eastern Province have been intensified to provide adequate security to the Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim communities living there. According to the operational headquarters, the LTTE, who is at the receiving end in Jaffna, would leave the Northern Province and infiltrate into the east with the idea of spreading violence there.

A report from Jaffna says that the civilians in the peninsula are supporting the security forces in the operation. Many civilians have requested the military officers to liberate them from the claws of the Tiger terrorists and give freedom to them. The Army says that the overall aim of the operation is to liberate the Jaffna people from the clutches of the LTTE. The Jaffna people have related the security forces their untold sufferings under the control of the LTTE. Many villagers had told the soldiers that they were thankful to the security forces for their offensive against the LTTE and granting them safety and relief. They have told the soldiers that they are aware that the security forces are fighting to liberate the innocent Tamil population. They have also said that they realized the ongoing offensive was not against the Tamils but against the terrorists.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga says that a crash program should be implemented to provide essential needs such as food, water, medical facilities and other common amenities to the people living in the north, especially in the Jaffna District, liberated by the ongoing military operation. The president said this at a special conference at Temple Trees yesterday. She appointed housing, construction, and public utilities minister, Nimal S. de SILVA, to supervise and coordinate with relevant ministries the establishment of civil administration in the liberated areas. Yesterday's conference chaired by the president was attended by the members of the committee. They discussed the immediate measures that should be taken to establish civil administration and to launch development activities. In accordance with the decision taken, the president instructed the relevant ministries to take immediate action. She also told the minister of housing and construction that this committee should actively supervise the establishment of civil administration in the liberated areas and secure the cooperation of the ministries concerned for the purpose and to find solutions to problems that would arise in the day-to-day activities in the process. The president directed that the committee should submit daily progress reports to her on the matter.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.